

## Taba talks may move to Geneva

TEL AVIV (R) — Talks between Egypt and Israel on the fate of the tiny Taba coastal strip in the Sinai peninsula may move to Geneva, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday. Mr. Shamir was quoted by Israel Radio as telling a closed meeting of a select parliamentary committee that the choice of the Swiss city was a rare point of agreement between the two countries on the issue. Both countries claim the beachfront salient, controlled by Israel since its 1982 withdrawal from the rest of Sinai. Informed sources told Reuters Geneva was agreed upon by Israeli, Egyptian and American negotiators earlier this month during the latest attempt at solving the dispute. It was not immediately clear why the choice of Geneva was not publicised at the time, the sources said. The negotiations will move to Switzerland only if agreement is first reached on whether the dispute should be solved by arbitration or conciliation, the sources added.

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## 18 Poles die in mine blast

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Rescue crews on Monday found the body of an 18th miner killed when a powerful explosion rocked an underground coal mine in south western Poland, state radio reported. The brief radio report said the rescue effort had ended and that all 18 bodies had been recovered from the blast, which also injured eight miners, apparently none seriously. It gave no further details. The explosion at the mine in the south western city of Walbrzych on Sunday was touched off by leaking methane gas, the official Polish News Agency PAP reported. It was believed to be the single worst mining accident in Poland in several years. Jozef Janik, spokesman for the Mining Ministry in the southern city of Katowice, said dozens of rescue workers took part in an all-night effort to find the trapped miner. The worker's body was found sometime during the morning.

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## Crown Prince receives U.S. senator

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan stressed the importance and the necessity of the American role in supporting the peace efforts in the Middle East region. During an audience with the visiting American Senator Steven Solaz, Prince Hassan said that a positive and unbiased U.S. role in the Middle East is capable of pushing the peace efforts forward and securing the legitimate Palestinian rights. Prince Hassan warned of the consequences of the continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. Prince Hassan also said that the Israeli settlement policy is aimed at evacuating the Palestinian land from its original inhabitants.

## Yugoslav minister starts talks in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Yugoslav Interior Minister Dobroslov Culfic had talks here Monday with his Iraqi counterpart, Mr. Saadoun Shakir, on developing bilateral cooperation, the Iraqi News Agency reported. Culfic arrived Sunday night for a familiarisation visit to Iraq, where over 12,000 Yugoslav workers are involved in development projects, and to discuss ways to combat terrorism and other forms of organised crime with Mr. Shakir and other Iraqi officials.

## Peres faces no-confidence motion over Mormon centre

TEL AVIV (R) — A Jewish ultra-religious party Monday threatened to try to topple the government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres over the building of an American Mormon university centre in Jerusalem. Abraham Shapira, head of the Agudat Yisrael Party, said his two-member faction would submit a no-confidence motion in parliament Tuesday because the government refused to halt construction on the branch of Utah's Brigham Young University. "We know there are churches in Jerusalem," he said.

## Numeiri accused of lying on Falasha airlift

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military leader, Gen. Abdul Rahman Swaredah, Monday accused ousted President Jaafar Numeiri of lying to him over the airlift of Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) to Israel through Sudan. He told a state security court Mr. Numeiri denied last March that the United States was splitting Falashas, through Sudan and told him American planes would land in eastern Sudan to unload relief supplies for refugees. Gen. Swaredah, who led the military coup ousted Mr. Numeiri last April, said the former president notified him of the planes' arrival in his then capacity as defence minister and deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces. He was testifying at the trial of former Vice-President Mohammad Al Tayeb and four other former government officials accused of high treason stemming from the four-month airlift of some 6,600 Falashas to Israel via Sudan, which started in November last year.

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## Egypt urges acceptance of key U.N. resolution while PLO rejects move

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Monday PLO leader Yasser Arafat must find a way to recognise Israel while a senior aide of Mr. Arafat ruled out acceptance of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

In a television interview, Mr. Mubarak said it was crucial for the Middle East peace process that Mr. Arafat accept two United Nations Resolutions that call for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories but recognise its right to exist. "If Arafat doesn't recognise these two resolutions, he will be the big fat loser, frankly speaking," Mr. Mubarak said in an interview on NBC. He said Mr. Arafat must find a way to accept U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 as a precursor for an international conference to initiate direct Middle East peace talks, "or be abandoned by Jordan."

"He (Arafat) should find a formula to recognise the 242 and 338

Jordanian delegations and, secondly, to assure the Syrians that the Golan Heights is one of the issues that should be discussed," he added.

A senior U.S. official said last week Syria now appeared to be more receptive to negotiations that would advance the peace process.

Mr. Mubarak also dismissed recent statements by Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir opposing any direct peace talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Mr. Shamir is a partner with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres in a coalition government. "We deal with Peres," Mr. Mubarak said. "That Shamir says no — that is the Israeli's problem. It is not our problem."

In Kuwait, Mr. Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Niyad, and a top aide of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader said Monday the PLO would not accept a key U.N. resolution on Middle East peace, and said commando action in Israeli-occupied

(Continued on page 3)

## Bethlehem braces for Christmas amid tight Israeli security

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (R) — Workers in this traditional birthplace of Jesus put the final touches on Christmas decorations Monday amid tight Israeli security.

"We are all set to celebrate Christmas in our usual way," said Bethlehem's Mayor Elias Freij. He said 14 local and foreign choirs would participate in festivities expected to attract 30,000 pilgrims this week.

Israeli soldiers were fewer in number than in the past, but an army spokesman said they would be out in greater force in the next few days. The troops will also frisk visitors for weapons and liquor.

As the festivities approach, shopkeepers have been dec-

orating store windows along the town square with Christmas streamers. A Christmas tree 10 metres tall towers over the square, its golden ornaments glittering under balm lights.

Television crews have set up their equipment in the 1,500-seat St. Catherine's Church, preparing to broadcast a Christmas eve midnight mass to viewers around the world.

Thousands of visitors unable to crowd into the church will view the mass on a large television screen in Manger Square.

Shopkeepers said far fewer pilgrims had arrived in Bethlehem than in past years.

"I'll have to eat my cakes myself

if I don't get many more customers by tomorrow," a cafe owner said. Small groups of pilgrims Monday strolled about or worshipped in the Church of the Nativity, the 1,600-year-old church believed to mark the site of the birth of Jesus.

Two Dutchmen having a snack outside their parked caravan in Manger Square said they had come back to Bethlehem for a second Christmas after visiting three years ago.

"It is a great historical event to be here for Christmas. That's why we came back," Andre Van Veenrebungh said.

"Bethlehem is a place where people gather to make a pledge of brotherly peace."

## 3 Egyptians feared kidnapped turn up in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Three Egyptian embassy workers turned up safe in west Beirut Monday after mistakenly being feared kidnapped. Police said guards at the French embassy, which hosts an Egyptian interests section, reported the three men were dragged from a taxi at gunpoint, sparking the abduction scare in the kidnapping-prone, mainly Muslim half of the capital.

They later returned safely to their offices, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid said in Cairo it appeared they had not been kidnapped at all.

He declined to elaborate, but ministry sources said it seemed the men, none of which was a diplomat, left the compound without notifying officials of their movements.

An Egyptian spokesman in Beirut said a mistake had occurred, but did not elaborate.

Police said earlier the embassy's security guards reported that the men were dragged from a taxi at gunpoint after leaving their office shortly before noon.

"They are staying in Lebanon and are being well-treated by the Lebanese," the spokesman added. The sources said they were apparently heading to Christian-held east Beirut where the Egyptian mission has been located since the increasing lawlessness in west Beirut.

The Cairo government closed down its embassy in west Beirut after Egypt signed the Camp David peace accords with Israel and the United States in 1979.

But it maintained a 15-man interest section mission at the French embassy.

## U.S. accused of working to penetrate ABM shield

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Monday accused the United States of working secretly on ways to penetrate anti-ballistic missile (ABM) shields.

The Soviet Armed Forces spokesman, Col. Gen. Nikolai Chervov, cited U.S. press reports that the Pentagon was developing fast-flying, low-altitude cruise missiles capable of evading enemy beam weapons.

It was also perfecting the technology for manoeuvring intercontinental and submarine-launched ballistic missiles and looking for ways to shorten their boost phase, during which they were vulnerable to ABM systems, he said.

Gen. Chervov made his remarks in an interview with the Novosti News and Features Agency which was published the day after the Soviet News Agency TASS, daily denied reported new U.S. charges of arms control treaty violations by Moscow.

TASS described the allegations, reported by the New York Times, as a "fresh propaganda fraud."

Washington has accused Moscow of breaching the 1972 ABM treaty by starting to build a radar centre at Krasnoyarsk in Siberia.

Moscow denies it has any national ABM system and itself charges that the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) violates the treaty.

Gen. Chervov rejected President Ronald Reagan's assertion that SDI was defensive and could make nuclear weapons obsolete, saying everyone in the world understood that the space-based anti-missile system was potentially offensive.

"If SDI is implemented, then space weapons, like the sword of Damocles, will be hanging over everyone's head and we will all be gazing into the skies filled with such weapons and guessing what will fall out of them," he said.

Gen. Chervov said U.S. space

arms under development used the latest technology including lasers, particle beams and kinetic energy and could be used against space, land and sea targets.

Their purpose was to neutralise the deterrent power of the Soviet arsenal, thereby enabling the U.S. to launch a first strike without fear of retaliation, he said.

Proof that U.S. intentions were not defensive came from the fact that alongside SDI, Washington was continuing to develop offensive strategic weapons such as the ground-based MX and Mid-gutman intercontinental ballistic missiles and the submarine-launched Trident-2 ballistic missile, Gen. Chervov said.

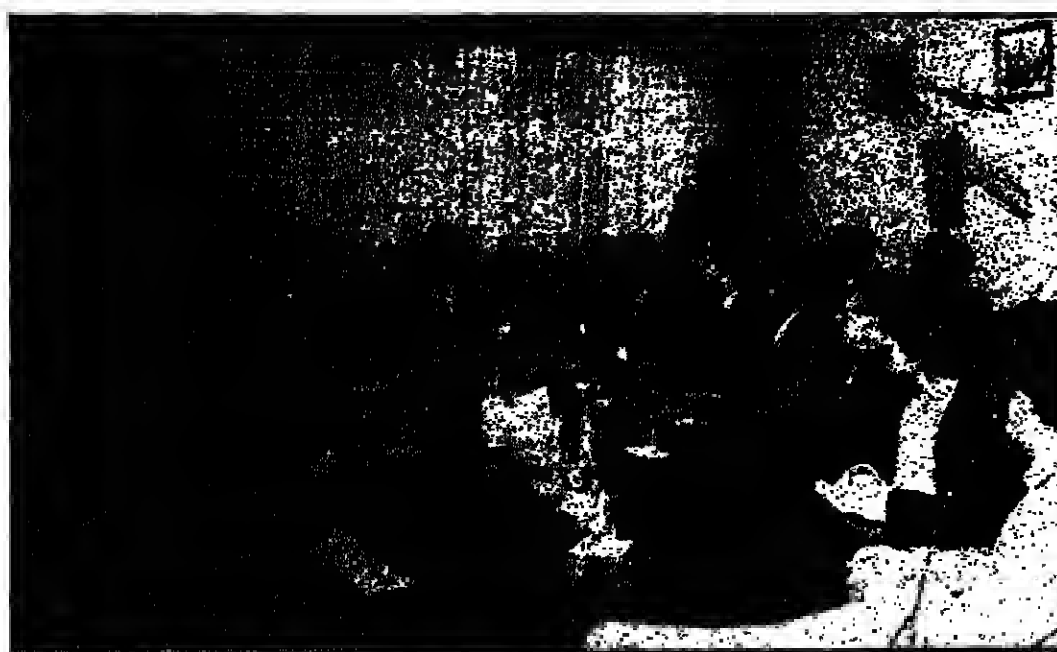
Another Novosti article Monday reminded Mr. Reagan that he still had a week left to join a Soviet unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests, declared in July.

Meanwhile the Communist Party daily Pravda Monday accused Washington of aggravating regional conflicts to provide a pretext for lack of progress on arms control.

The accusation was made in an article by Pravda news analyst Vsevolod Ovchinnikov, one of four Soviet journalists who interviewed U.S. President Ronald Reagan before his summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva last month.

Before the summit, Mr. Reagan made clear that in addition to arms questions he wanted to discuss crises for which Washington holds the Soviet Union responsible in such countries as Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Kampuchea.

Ovchinnikov said conflicts in the Third World could not be interpreted as a reflection of East-West rivalry. U.S. attempts at the "irrelevant linkage" of progress on arms with progress on other aspects of superpower relations had failed, he added.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan chairs a meeting at the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Monday (Petra photo)

## Cheysson calls for joint ventures to balance Jordan-EC trade

By Sa'ad G. Hattar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Mr. Claude Cheysson, member of the Executive Committee of the EC in charge of North-South relations, left Amman on Monday, winding up a three-day visit with a call for setting up joint ventures in order to strike a balance in the EC-Jordan trade exchange, which is currently in favour of the ten-member European bloc.

Speaking at a press conference just before his departure for Cyprus, Mr. Cheysson said "the imbalance in trade between Europe and Jordan is a matter of great concern and should be solved."

The \$800 million gap between Jordan's imports from and exports to the EC "might not be dealt with overnight" as it needs long-term programmes, Mr. Cheysson said, adding that measures should be taken to gradually bridge the gap.

Mr. Cheysson pointed out that the best means to achieve this end is by seeking joint ventures between Jordan and Europe to touch on all fields ranging from banking to tourism.

"The port city of Aqaba is a dream of every European for its ever-shining sun and its coastal charm," he said. "Tourism to the Kingdom could be promoted by arranging European tourist groups on regular basis," he added.

Jordan and the EC have drawn up a new package for cooperation in all fields to renew the current agreement, which will be invalid by the end of 1986.

The new draft deal under which the EC will grant economic, technical and financial assistance to

the Kingdom will be synchronised with Jordan's 1986-1990 national development plan. The cooperation agreement will be put in motion by the beginning of 1986.

Under the agreement, the EC offers technical support for vocational training schools, University of Jordan and Yarmouk University in addition to cooperation in industrial and economic development.

Earlier in 1985, both sides agreed to draw up a schedule for joint ventures to be implemented through a priority scale within Jordan's five year development plan.

Assistance in the field of energy and means to rationalise consumption in the Kingdom, with EC expertise, is also included in the cooperation agreement.

On agricultural cooperation between Jordan and the EC, Mr. Cheysson suggested that local Jordanian farmers consider growing what he termed "luxury products" and crops that could be exported to Europe before harvest time in other parts of the world.

"If local farmers can make it in two to four weeks before other parts of the world the European market can absorb Jordanian produce, taking into account the high demand on such products," he said.

During his stay in Amman, Mr. Cheysson was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and a number of cabinet ministers. His talks with the King centred on efforts for peace in the Middle East.

Speaking about prospects for a

negotiated settlement to the Middle East conflict, Mr. Cheysson, who is a former French foreign minister, told reporters that the European Community has always supported the call for an international peace conference as called for by the Jordan-PLO accord of Feb. 11, 1985.

Voicing an EC approval to "the Jordanian line," Mr. Cheysson asked: "Who will think that there can be peace without Israel, without Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation or Syria?"

The European countries also agree with King Hussein that Syria should be directly involved in any future negotiations and that "peace will never be secured short of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," Mr. Cheysson said.

In reply to a question on whether the EC as a bloc would receive a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as a prelude to holding an international conference, the EC envoy pointed out that Brussels was ready to receive a joint delegation "but for reasons you all know the idea was bogged down."

Mr. Cheysson was referring to the last minute cancellation of a meeting which was due to have taken place between a Jordan-PLO delegation and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Touching on the PLO political line, Mr. Cheysson said an acceptance by the organisation of U.N. Resolution 242 would give impetus to the Middle East peace process.

Later on Monday, Mr. Cheysson arrived in Cyprus for a two-day visit during which he will hold talks with Cypriot leaders.

## 6 killed in S.African bomb blast

DURBAN (R) — Six whites — three women and three boys — were killed Monday when a bomb exploded in a resort crowded with Christmas holidaymakers near the South African port of Durban, police said.

A police spokesman said 24 people were injured in the blast at a shopping centre in Amanzimtoti on the Indian Ocean.

He said one of the dead was an eight-year-old boy. No details of the other casualties were immediately available.

South Africa's Law and Order Minister Louis Le Grange and the commissioner of police, Gen. Johan Coetzee, cut short holidays to visit the area.

Mr. Le Grange told reporters at the scene that security forces would work around the clock to find those responsible.

"I am very sorry to say that this kind of shocking incident is not totally unexpected. We have been warned by the ANC (African National Congress) that they will go for soft targets, civilians, women and children in shopping areas," he said.

Eyewitnesses said that after the blast police with dogs battled to control crowds at the shopping centre.

Medical workers moved among the injured and private cars and buses were being used to ferry casualties to hospital.

## Winnie Mandela freed, vows to return to Soweto

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black nationalist leader Winnie Mandela was released on bail Monday and immediately told reporters she would repeat the act of defiance for which she was arrested by going back to her home in Soweto black township.

"I am going back there (to Soweto)," said Mrs. Mandela, who is barred from Johannesburg and adjacent Soweto under a government order restricting her movements.

Police arrested Mrs. Mandela, 51, Sunday for defying an order to stay out of Soweto.

The court ordered her to appear again on Jan. 22.

Mrs. Mandela's lawyer, Akbar Ayob, told Reuters he would take her to see a doctor about an ankle injury she sustained when police took her away from her family's home in Soweto, near Johannesburg, on Saturday.

On that occasion she was not held in custody but was arrested when she returned to Soweto during the night.

Mr. Ayob said that after seeing the doctor Mrs. Mandela would return immediately to Soweto.

Mrs. Mandela was greeted by hordes of cameramen, reporters and well-wishers when she emerged from the court. She hugged her daughter Zindzi and her lawyers. There were cries of "sister, sister" from black women in the crowd.

Smiling and looking relaxed, Mrs. Mandela said she would go straight back to Soweto. Asked

## Prince Hassan chairs meeting on West Bank development

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday reviewed the functions and responsibilities of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs and issued his directives on the ministry's plan of action.

During a meeting at the Ministry chaired by Prince Hassan, the ministry's functions in relation to the economic and social development in the occupied West Bank and the conditions of the refugee camps, both in Jordan and the West Bank, were reviewed.

Attending the meeting were Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kana'an, Minister of Planning Abdullah Al Nsour and senior officials.

## Moscow offers to mediate between Iraq, Syria

KUWAIT (R) — Moscow has offered to try heal rifts between Iraq and Syria to enable them to concentrate on threats facing them, the Arabic daily Al Watan said Monday.

The newspaper, quoting informed Arab sources, said this one of the matters discussed by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during his recent visit to Moscow, the first for seven years.

"The Soviet Union has offered to mediate between Iraq and Syria," it quoted one of its sources as saying.

The offer, it said, was made "in the light of the Israeli and American threats to Syria, and the Iranian threat to Iraq."

A recent charge by Israel that Syria had deployed Soviet-supplied high-altitude missiles along its border with Lebanon has heightened tension between the two countries.

Syria, a close Soviet ally, is one of the few Arab states to back Tehran in the Gulf war, now into its sixth year.

## Syria 'prepared to counter' Israeli aggression

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Ra'ouf Al Kasm said Monday Syria was "fully prepared" to counter any Israeli aggression.

Mr. Kasm was speaking at a Syrian cabinet meeting during which he pointed out the latest developments in the region and "the aim of the continuing Israeli provocations against Syria," according to the press spokesman for the Syrian Prime Ministry.

Meanwhile, the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) has appealed to all parliamentarians of the world to condemn Israeli threats against Syria and to declare their support for Syria against these threats.

An APU statement issued here Monday pointed out that Israel has recently launched a campaign of provocation accompanied by threats against Syria "because Syria has deployed defence missiles on its territory."

The statement affirmed that the fabricated Israeli reports are aimed "at heightening tension in the region and also preparing for an aggression against Syria."

"The Israeli threats against Syria," the APU statement said, "are a flagrant intervention in the internal affairs of an independent state which is a violation of the U.N. and international laws."



# Wu calls for diplomatic relations between China and Arab Gulf states

Chinese minister urges early end to Iran-Iraq war

ABU DHABI (AP) — Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian expressed on Monday his country's interest in having diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia and other Arab Gulf states saying this desire was vindicated by "identical" stands between the two sides on key issues including condemnation of the Soviet Union's military occupation forces in Afghanistan.



Wu Xueqian

Peking, like Saudi Arabia and the other Arab Gulf states, also wishes to see an early end to the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war, and the Palestinian rights redressed, Mr. Wu said.

The minister arrived here Sunday on the last leg of a five-nation Arab tour which earlier took him to Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Egypt. Addressing a press conference, Mr. Wu said Peking wished to have relations with Saudi Arabia "as soon as possible," but that his country was willing to "try to reach this objective gradually."

"We are ready to wait," he said. In the meantime, Peking welcomed visits by officials from Saudi and the other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries which have no diplomatic ties with Communist China "to see our present policies and economic development."

Saudi Arabia is the leading member of the GCC regional economic and collective security alliance which also includes Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE. Among the group, Kuwait and Oman and the UAE have relations with both Moscow and Peking, but the other three have relations with neither Communist country.

Mr. Wu said he met the Saudi foreign minister in 1982 when Prince Saud Al Faisal visited Peking as part of the seven-member Fuzhou committee campaigning for support for an Arab Middle East peace plan. "I had expressed to

him China's wish in increasing understanding, through which we may establish diplomatic relations," he said. "Faisal agreed on the principle of understanding leading to relations."

China has 15 million Muslims of whom more than one thousand perform pilgrimage to Islamic holy shrines in Saudi Arabia, in addition to other existing links with the kingdom, he said.

Mr. Wu said that he "found no objection" to the call for an international peace conference as a forum for an Arab-Israeli settlement in the five Middle East countries he toured.

"As a friendly country to the Arabs... China stands with the peace conference and if a call for the conference was included on the agenda at the United Nations, we will do our best for it," he said. He advised the Arab countries to "unify their stand" so that they can develop "practical steps" to help bring about the convening of the conference.

"We believe that the key solution to the Middle East issue lies in the Arab unity and solidarity with the Palestinian people against Israeli expansionism," he said.

Mr. Wu stressed the integral role of the GCC countries in ending the Gulf war. "I have expressed to the UAE leaders China's readiness to back the Gulf countries in their just stand on the Middle East issue and their integral role in ending the war in the

## Sudanese 'Islamic Jihad' threatens ministry

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — A group calling itself "Islamic Jihad" (holy war) has threatened to blow up the Sudanese Interior Ministry if certain demands are not met, the newspaper Alayam reported Monday.

It quoted Interior Minister Abbas Madani as saying he had received a written threat from the group. He would not disclose their demands.

Sudanese authorities arrested five people on Dec. 12 for distributing threatening leaflets to politicians in the name of "Islamic Jihad."

Reporting this at the time, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) did not suggest any connection between the Sudanese "Jihad" and its better-known Lebanese namesake, which has claimed responsibility for kidnapping Americans and blowing up U.S. and French institutions in Beirut.

Alayam quoted Mr. Madani as saying interrogation of the five detained men indicated the group was a small one and its operations confined to the Sudanese capital.

He said the five would soon stand trial but he did not specify the charges.

Pro-Numeiri leader held

In another development, SUNA said Sunday Osman Abul Gasim, former cooperation and rural development minister, has been arrested for involvement in forming a political party loyal to deposed President Jaafar Numeiri.

Mr. Gasim was arrested Saturday upon returning home from a week-long trip abroad, the agency said quoting Mr. Madani.

Before his trip abroad, Mr. Gasim and other politicians who remained loyal to Mr. Numeiri announced the establishment of the National Socialist Alliance (NSA).

So far, about 33 members of the NSA were arrested, according to Maj. General Mohammad Al Hassan Yusuf.

The agency quoted Attorney General Omar Abdul Attie as saying the new party, proclaimed at a news conference last week, was illegal.

Mr. Numeiri was ousted April 6 by a military coup led by Defence Minister Gen. Abdul Rahman Swareddahab.

In another dispatch, KUNA said Prime Minister Al Gazouli Dafaallah accepted the resignation of Aouad Abdul Meguid as finance minister and named an interim replacement.

Mr. Abdul Meguid announced his resignation last week after the cabinet refused to endorse a deal he negotiated with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

SUNA said Mr. Dafaallah entrusted Commerce Minister Sid Ahmad Al Hassan with the finance portfolio until a new minister is appointed.

## 32 killed in floods near Saudi-Jordanian border

By Dina Matar  
Reuters

BAHRAIN — At least 32 people have died in the worst floods for 50 years in the northwest corner of Saudi Arabia, a senior civil defence official in Riyadh said on Monday.

Colonel Ahmad Al Amir, assistant director of operations at the defence directorate, told Reuters by telephone that another 31 people were missing in waters sent raging through valleys, near the Saudi-Jordanian border by a five-day downpour last week.

Twelve people died and six were missing in the small town of Tabuk, 50 kilometres south of the border, the town's chief of police said.

Fifteen others died when a wall of water 12 kilometres wide swept through the Ola region, south of

Tabuk, and other areas around Saudi Arabia's second holiest city, Al Madinah Al Munawwarah, Colonel Amir said.

Moderate winter rainfall is normal in mountainous parts of Saudi Arabia, but weather experts said the torrential rains which fell from last Tuesday to Saturday, accompanied by 80 kilometre per hour winds, were the worst in 50 years.

Col. Amir said several people died while driving or when their tent homes were swept away by the floods, which also uprooted trees and drowned livestock.

Army helicopters and C-130 Hercules aircraft were flown to help stranded victims, and by Monday afternoon, thousands of tonnes of foodstuff, 5,000 blankets and 3,000 tents had been distributed, Col. Amir said.

The Ministry of Health said

mobile hospitals and first aid teams were sent to the worst-hit areas to prevent the outbreak of disease.

The freak weather last week also hit Saudi Arabia's neighbour Kuwait, where a gale force sandstorm closed the international airport to most incoming flights last Wednesday and disrupted shipping.

Kuwait airport visibility was reduced to 250 metres and several planes had to be diverted.

The reports followed a week of unsettled weather throughout Saudi Arabia. A dust storm last week caused delays at Jeddah's King Abdul Aziz International Airport for seven hours.

The Dhahran area, in eastern Saudi Arabia, and neighbouring Bahrain have seen about half an inch of rainfall during the past two days.

## Britain asks Waite to seek Collett's release

LONDON (R) — Britain has asked Anglican church envoy Terry Waite to try to secure the release of British journalist Alec Collett during his mission to Beirut aimed at freeing four American hostages, the Foreign Office said Monday.

A Foreign Office spokesman told Reuters: "We have asked Waite to keep Collett in mind during his present mission."

The British government on Sunday appealed to Mr. Collett's captors to release the 63-year-old journalist who was abducted in Lebanon nine months ago while on assignment for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees.

But the Conservative gov-

ernment said it would not consider releasing Arabs in British jails, as demanded by his kidnappers.

The captors released a video tape to Beirut newspapers at the weekend in which Mr. Collett asked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to try to obtain his release.

Mr. Waite is in Lebanon for the third time to intercede with the kidnappers of the four Americans on behalf of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, leader of the World's Anglicans.

Mr. Collett's video-taped appeal, said he would like to meet the journalist's captors "face-to-face" for talks. The British embassy in Beirut said Sunday it also wanted contacts with the kidnappers.

## Cypriot police free Arab-American held in connection with arms case

LARNACA (AP) — Police on Monday released an American citizen of Palestinian origin detained in connection with an attempt to smuggle weapons hidden in wine bottles aboard a jetliner bound for Amman.

Yezid Gaspar Sayigh, 30, was remanded in custody for four days, last Thursday, a day after another Palestinian was caught at Larnaca airport allegedly with three pistols and three grenades concealed in two wine bottles.

Police inspector Yannis Christodoulou had asked for Sayigh's detention, telling the court he had been in daily contact with the man arrested at the airport, Sami Nasser 26, during the three previous days.

Sayigh, a post-graduate student living in Cyprus for the past two years, maintained that Nasser, who arrived on the island on Dec. 15, visited him because they had been friends during their student days at the American University of Beirut.

"I am greatly relieved at being released, though I knew all along I was innocent," Sayigh told the Associated Press soon after his

release from the Larnaca police station.

"The police appeared anxious to find someone connected with this case and detained me with no real evidence. I only knew Nasser socially," he added.

Sayigh's lawyer, Nikos Cleantous, told the Associated Press he is considering taking action against Cypriot newspapers, which quoted unidentified police sources as stating that Sayigh was the brain behind the attempt to smuggle the weapons aboard the Swiss jet on a Zurich-Larnaca-Amman flight.

"The police were wrong in detaining Sayigh and compounded their error by feeding the press with false reports," Cleantous added.

Cleantous charged that U.S. diplomats who visited Sayigh in detention "treated him as a guilty terrorist instead of helping an innocent man."

A police announcement last week said that another Arab, identified as Abdul Latif Salah, aged about 25, with a Jordanian passport, was being sought in connection with the same case.

## Syrian jets 'did not mean to intercept' Israeli planes, Rabin says

TEL AVIV (AP) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said Israel now "knew" that two Syrian MiG-23s shot down by Israeli jets last month "never intended" to intercept the Israeli aircraft.

In a televised question-and-answer session with military officers, Rabin said Sunday that "from different sources we now know that the Syrian planes had no intention of intercepting." Israeli planes on a "routine reconnaissance" flight over Lebanon. But he added, "things sometimes happen even when the two sides don't want them to happen."

The incident on Nov. 19 led Syria to move SA-2 missiles up to the Lebanese border within shooting range of Israeli planes flying over Lebanon.

On Dec. 15 Israel announced the new Syrian deployment and warned that stationing of the missiles there could lead to unintended escalation of conflict with Syria.

The Israelis have asked the United States to intercede with the Syrians to move their missiles out of range of Israeli planes in Lebanon.

In a poll last week almost 50 per cent of 1,200 Israelis surveyed said they believed there was likelihood or certainty of war with Syria within a year.

But Rabin said he did not believe that if Syria initiated war with Israel any other country would join the hostilities.

He said he saw a possibility of dangerous escalation if guerrilla attacks occurred from Lebanon as a result of Israeli inability to collect full intelligence.

## Khamenei pledges support for Lebanese community

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei on Sunday pledged to continue his country's support for the Muslim community in Lebanon.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), which is monitored here, said that Mr. Khamenei made the statement in a meeting with Sheikh Saeed Sha'aban, leader of a fundamentalist Sunni Muslim group in northern Lebanon.

Iran in October had been instrumental in getting a ceasefire in the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli, where Sheikh Sha'aban's Taawhed Islami militia had been battling for nearly three weeks with rival leftist groups.

## Airlift of Soviet Jews reportedly under study

NEW YORK (R) — Edgar Bronfman, head of the World Jewish Congress, has been engaged in secret talks with Soviet officials to try to organise an airlift of Jews out of the Soviet Union, Time magazine said Sunday.

The news weekly, quoting unidentified sources familiar with the talks, said Bronfman was serving as a conduit between the Soviet Union and Israel, which do not have diplomatic relations, and was attempting to organise an airlift which could involve thousands of Jews.

"The complex scheme, which involves the Soviet Union, France, Poland and Israel, probably would not take place until at least after the Soviet (Communist) Party congress in late February," Time said.

A spokesman for the World Jewish Congress could not be immediately reached for com-

ment.

Time said the plan was for Soviet Jews to move first to Poland and then to be airlifted to Israel, thus preventing them from attempting to directly emigrate to the United States or other Western countries.

Some 2.6 million Jews are believed to be living in the Soviet Union.

Time quoted Israeli Premier Shimon Peres as saying in an interview last week: "The Soviets have always complained that those allowed to emigrate go to the United States instead of Israel. Well, I agree that is in the interest of the Soviet Union as well as my own country that they go to Israel."

Peres, the magazine said, was cautious in discussing the Bronfman mission, saying the World Jewish Congress leader had received no assurances in Moscow.

### TV & RADIO

#### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

#### MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran  
17:45 Cartoons  
17:45 Children Programme  
18:15 The Evening News  
18:30 Just Our Luck  
19:00 Programme on Safety for Children  
19:30 News programme  
19:45 Tomorrow's News in Arabic  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:35 Tomorrow's News in Arabic  
21:00 Tomorrow's News in Arabic  
21:30 Road to Jerusalem (Arabic Series)  
21:40 Road to Jerusalem (Arabic Series)  
22:30 News in Arabic  
23:30 Series Continued

#### FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:30... auteur du monde en 80 jours  
18:30... des chiffres de lettres  
19:00... News in French  
19:30... News in Hebrew  
19:30... News in Arabic  
20:30... That's My Boy  
21:10... The Secret of the Black Dragon  
22:00... News in English  
22:15... Feature Film: The Great Gold Heist  
24:00... Varieties  
01:30... Christmas Midnight Mass from The Vatican

#### RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 9560 KHz, SW 77411-19

07:00... Light Music  
07:30... News Desk  
08:00... Morning Show  
08:30... News Summary  
09:00... Morning Show  
11:00... Pop Session Cont.  
12:00... News Summary  
13:00... Pop Session Cont.  
13:30... News Summary  
14:00... Pop Session Cont.  
14:30... News Bulletin  
14:30... Instrumentals  
14:35... Country Music  
15:00... Concert Hour  
15:30... News Summary  
15:30... Instrumentals  
15:30... Old Favorites  
17:00... Science Report  
17:30... Pop Session  
18:00... News Summary

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### TODAY'S EVENTS

#### EXHIBITIONS

"A painting exhibition by Khalid Khuri at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Dec. 30).  
"A flower arrangement exhibition (flowers made of ceramics, copper, plastic, silk) by Yusra Abu Ghazaleh at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 30)

#### FILM

"The ABC News — The McLaughlin Group — at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.  
"An exhibition of water colour paintings and graphics at the Fine Arts Association (until Dec. 27)

#### CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267  
American Centre Tel. 644371  
British Council Tel. 6361470  
French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009  
Geoside Institute Tel. 641993  
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 644203  
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 624049  
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 639777  
Hays Arts Centre Tel. 645195  
Hebrew Youth City Tel. 647181/86  
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 641793  
Y.W.M.C.A. Tel. 644251  
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 637111  
University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555

#### MUSEUMS

Baladire Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Midian and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. — 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.  
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qasr (Old Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. (Holidays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.  
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Jordanian provinces and a collection of paintings by 19th Century

#### CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lawadich, 637440.  
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Haseen, 661757.  
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 623541.  
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 678066.  
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 775261.  
St. Raphael Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.  
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsi, 677534.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Sule), Tel. 811285.  
Baptist Congregation (International, Inter-denominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabel Amman, Tel. 663249.

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:07... Fajr  
05:23... Sunrise  
11:35... Dhuhr  
14:39... Asr  
16:36... Maghrib  
18:04... Isha

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (06) 523000-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

08:45... Agaba (RJ)  
09:25... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:35... Cairo (RJ)  
09:35... Kuwait (RJ)  
09:45... Jeddah (RJ)  
09:45... Cairo (RJ)  
10:00... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
10:00... Damascus (RJ)  
10:45... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
10:45... Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
10:45... Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)  
12:45... Rome, Damascus (RJ)  
15:00... Moscow (RJ)  
16:30... Larnaca (RJ)  
17:15... Baghdad (RJ)  
17:30... New York, Vienna (RJ)  
17:35... Paris, Brussels (RJ)  
17:55... Athens (RJ)  
18:00... Amsterdam, Istanbul (RJ)  
18:05... Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)  
19:30... Tripoli (RJ)  
19:45... Rome, Damascus (RJ)  
21:45... Zurich, Larnaca (RJ)  
22:30... Baghdad (RJ)  
01:30... Baghdad (RJ)

#### DEPARTURES

06:30... Agaba (RJ)  
06:40... Beirut (RJ)  
08:20... Cairo (RJ)  
08:30... Tripoli (RJ)  
11:30... Athens (RJ)  
12:00... Geneva, London (RJ)  
12:15... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:15... Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
12:30... Rome, Madrid (RJ)  
12:45... Istanbul, Bucharest (RJ)  
13:00... Larnaca (RJ)  
15:00... Kuwait (RJ)  
16:00... Moscow (RJ)  
16:30... Baghdad (RJ)  
16:30... Kiev (RJ)  
19:00... Dhahran (RJ)  
20:15... Jeddah (RJ)  
20:45... Cairo (RJ)  
21:15... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
21:30... Baghdad (RJ)  
22:30... Baghdad (RJ)  
23:30... Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (RJ)

#### MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port:  
— Blue Nile  
— Noddy/Rosario

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:  
It will be partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered showers and southeasterly moderate winds. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, with chances for scattered rain. Winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

#### YESTERDAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES:

Amman 10.5, Agaba 18.5. Humidity readings: Amman 67 per cent, Agaba 37 per cent.

#### MONEY EXCHANGE

##### Monday rates

Local selling rates in Jls  
Bahraini dir. 978 98  
Dutch guilder 130.6 131.6  
Egyptian pound 207 213  
French franc 49 49.4  
Iraqi dinar 333 339  
Japanese yen (for 100) 182 183.5  
Kuwaiti dir. 127.5 128.5  
Lebanese lra 19 21  
Omani rial 1070 1080  
Saudi riyal 101 103  
Swedish krona 101 103  
Swedish crown 47.9 48.3  
Swiss franc 174.7 176.1  
Syrian lra 26 28  
UAE dirham 100 102  
U.S. dollar 527.2 531.4  
U.S. dollar 369 372.1  
W. German mark 147.1 148.3

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

#### EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228  
Amman Civil defence 198 199  
Civil Defence Jbel 271293, 273131  
Civil Defence Queswaish 707733  
Ambulance 193, 775111  
Amman downtown fire brigade 138  
Fire aid 6303  
Blood bank 778303  
Civil Defence rescue 661111  
Fire headquarters 62090-3  
Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777  
Police headquarters 639141  
Traffic police 8963901  
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881  
Municipal water complaints 771125/8  
Queen Alia Int. Airport (06) 533060

#### TAXIS

Taxi taxi 644660  
Taxis taxi 666417  
Dewit taxi 668154  
Abdul Hamid taxi 84978  
Raghad taxi 842400  
Raghad taxi 842474

#### HOSPITALS

Husein Medical Centre 813819/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Am. 644281/6  
Akhil Maternity, J. Amman 644241/2  
Jabel Amman Maternity 642362  
Malles, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shamsi 644174  
Shamsi Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845/65  
Al-Bustan Hospital 6672779  
The Islamic, Abadi 666127/57  
Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164/6  
Saudi clinic 7771013  
Al-Bustan, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26  
Army, Marka 891611/5  
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

#### GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/19  
Radio Jordan 774111/19  
Ministry of Tourism 642311  
Hotel complaints 666412  
Police complaints 661176  
Telephone information 661176  
Jordan and Middle East calls 10  
Overseas calls 17  
Repair service 11

#### MARKET PRICES

(Fixed prices for imported produce)

Upper/lower price in Jls per kg  
Apple 280/220  
Beet 140/110  
Chestnut 650/600  
Coconut (each) 500/450  
Garlic (with leaves) 320/280  
Garlic (without leaves) 480/400  
Onion (dry) 180/160  
Potatoes 200/150  
Spinach 350/300



## Bashairah opens new educational TV studio

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Education Under Secretary Dr. Ahmad Bashairah opened a new educational television studio Monday. The opening was attended by the Japanese Ambassador to Jordan, whose government provided equipment for the new studio valued at JD 100,000.

The Japanese contribution included new audio-visual equipment for educational programme production such as colour television receivers, video cassette recorders, microphones, video cameras, a video editing system, and studio lighting.

During the presentation ceremony Dr. Bashairah praised Japanese-Jordanian ties in general and in the field of education in particular.

In his speech Dr. Bashairah also thanked the Japanese government for the studio and expressed hope that educational cooperation between the ministry and Japan would increase.

The Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Akira Nakayama, who pointed out the importance of education for the country's socio-economic development, also said that "education should be constantly upgraded and modernised in order for it to become an integral part in the country's development process."

Dr. Nakayama said that the studio will help to upgrade Jordan's

educational methods and praised Japanese-Jordanian relations. The ambassador also expressed hope that Japan would increase its educational cooperation with Jordan in the near future.

The ministry's television and radio educational department director Ibrahim Musallam said that since 1964 the ministry has been one of the Arab World's pioneers in introducing educational television programmes.

"Despite our meagre financial resources, the educational television programmes which we launched have helped in raising the country's educational standard," Dr. Musallam stressed.

The Ministry of Education initiated educational television programming in 1964 with series on mathematics, physics and the English language. At present there are 15 educational programmes appearing on Jordanian television.

Dr. Musallam indicated that the department aims to increase the number of its technicians and to train them on how to use video cameras in the areas of production, script writing and preparing educational programmes.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said that Japan has already donated to the Ministry of Education 44 colour television sets, 44 video cameras and 44 video sets since 1974. Japan also has trained ministry personnel in Japan.

## Arab consulting managers end meeting with recommendations

AMMAN (Petra) — A three day meeting of experts on administrative consultation in the Arab World concluded Monday with a recommendation to not assign any foreign consulting institution with administrative consultations without the participation of Arab experts.

The participants also recommended less reliance on foreign consulting houses so that Arab and national experts can be further utilised.

They also recommended that a feasibility study should be considered as one of the main conditions for accepting the results of a consultation or implementing it and that knowledge and experiences be exchanged among

Arah consulting institutions. In addition they called on all Arab consulting organisations and institutions to coordinate their efforts to encourage academic institutions and universities to establish consulting offices and to direct special attention to applied and scientific research.

Participants also called on higher education institutions in the Arab World to adopt the idea of teaching consulting administration to their students.

Another recommendation issued by the conferees was that a consultant's mission should not end with the preparation of a final report about his assignment, but also should include follow-up reports on implementation.

## Saudi prince expresses gratitude to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Prince Abdul Majid Ibn Abdul Aziz of Tabouk, Saudi Arabia, has expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Jordanian government, which offered to provide necessary assistance during the floods which swept Tabouk on Saturday. In a cable the Saudi prince sent to Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed, Prince Abdul Majid said this noble stand of Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, is a true expression of the brotherly ties between Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

## Course for mothers of disabled begins

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day training course for mothers of the handicapped in Tafleeh will begin Tuesday at Tafleeh preparatory school. The course, organised by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, aims to provide mothers of the handicapped with basic information

## Egypt urges recognition

(Continued from page 1)

land would be stepped up. "We strongly reject (Security Council Resolution) 242 and will not accept it at all," he told a news conference.

Mr. Khalaf, a member of the Central Committee of Mr. Arafat's Fateh commando group, said: "We will escalate our violence inside the occupied lands and Israel."

He said some Arab countries, which he did not name, had advocated the idea of a Palestinian government-in-exile to exclude Mr. Arafat, aimed at "changing the faces" of the PLO. The Fateh Central Committee rejected the idea, he added.

Mr. Khalaf said Mr. Arafat planned to visit Moscow soon and described PLO relations with the Soviet Union as excellent.

The Soviet Union, along with Arab countries he did not identify, were trying to strengthen the strained relations between the PLO and Syria, he added.

Mr. Khalaf said he hoped initiatives to improve ties between Jordan and Syria would help to achieve Arab solidarity.

Asked whether the PLO planned to transfer its headquarters to Khartoum, Sudan, following an Israeli air raid in October on its Tunis base, Mr. Khalaf said: "No decision has yet been taken."

Meanwhile in occupied Jerusalem a prominent West Bank Palestinian said that the PLO will recognise Israel if it is guaranteed a role in an international Mideast peace conference.

Hanna Siniora, who was mentioned as a possible negotiator in peace talks, said in an interview that at first PLO chief Yasser Arafat will state his recognition only in private contacts and not declare it publicly.

He also said that the PLO will recognise Israel by accepting U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, which recognise Israel's right to exist. The United States has set acceptance of the resolutions as a

precondition for PLO participation in peace efforts.

Mr. Siniora said the PLO's condition could be met only if both superpowers announced the convening of an international conference with the organisation's participation.

Mr. Siniora, is editor of the Arabic-language Al Fajr newspaper, a leading daily in the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war.

He said opposition from Syrian-backed PLO dissidents challenging Mr. Arafat's leadership made it too risky for Mr. Arafat to endorse the U.N. Resolutions without a guaranteed role in peace talks.

"Why should he make such an announcement and create dissent and havoc in the Palestinian camp for nothing," Mr. Siniora said.

He said Mr. Arafat may authorise Jordan to tell the United States privately that the PLO recognises the U.N. Resolutions, but he "will say it publicly only when he is 100 per cent sure that the PLO will participate in the conference."

Mr. Siniora and other West Bank leaders were denied permission by the Israeli authorities last week. The group said it wanted to try and persuade Mr. Arafat to accept the U.N. Resolutions in return for recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Israeli leaders are divided over whether an international conference should be held, but they are united in their opposition to PLO participation in peace talks.

Mr. Siniora said that unless peace talks were begun within four months, "the entire process may be dead."

He said that by April the U.S. election campaign would be underway and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres would be near the end of his term of office under a power-sharing agreement with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The two men are due to exchange jobs in October.



Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib delivers an address on Monday to mass communication students at Yarmouk University (Petra photo)

## Al Khayyat reviews new preaching law

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat said Monday that mosque pulpits should not be used for instigation, accusations, defamation, or as means for spreading disturbances or differences among people and that such acts are extremely alien to Islam.

Speaking during a meeting with preachers and imams held Monday at the Islamic Sciences College, Dr. Khayyat reviewed the new draft law regulating preaching in mosques and the issuance of fatawa (judgments rel-

ated to Islamic affairs) which was approved last Thursday by the Lower House of Parliament.

The minister said that the new law calls on religious preachers to be deliberate and not to make haste in issuing their judgments. A preacher, he added, should be qualified to play his role and only those who are qualified should issue judgments related to Islamic affairs.

Dr. Khayyat pointed out that the ministry's Centre for the Teaching of the Principles and Basics of Preaching will be holding training courses of different levels

for preachers and imams with the aim of improving their efficiency and to teach them wise and effective preaching methods.

The minister added that a council for preaching and guidance will be formed to lay down preaching policy and to maintain an appropriate atmosphere in mosques. It has also been decided to organise a week for mosques during which people will be taught about preaching and the proper care of mosques, according to the minister.

## Hawamdeh returns from Tunisia

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Supply Under Secretary Abdullah Al Hawamdeh Sunday concluded a visit to Tunisia during which he held talks with ministers of state for foreign affairs and economy on commercial relations and means of consolidating them.

## Housing project expanded

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Corporation has decided to allow all citizens living near the corporation's housing project in Ajloun to benefit from the project.

Meanwhile the corporation's board of directors decided Monday to refer a housing project worth JD 332,000 to a local company.

During a meeting chaired by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment

Marwan Al Hmoud in his capacity as chairman of the corporation's board of directors, the board decided to refer a project for constructing 60 housing units in Hisheh Baida and Bdoul area, near Petra.

Fifty housing units will be constructed in Hisheh Baida and 10 housing units in Bdoul to accommodate the people of this area, who live in caves and archaeological sites.

# Khatib says Jordanian information policy derives from Great Arab Revolt

IRBID (Petra) — The main pillars of Jordan's information policy are derived from Jordan's message, that of the Great Arab Revolt, which aimed at achieving Arab unity, independence, and dignity, said Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib Monday in an address to mass communication students at Yarmouk University.

Mr. Khatib said Jordan is part of the Arab Nation and that it believes in centrism and moderation and rejects extremism. Mr. Khatib stressed that the Palestine question is the central cause of Jordan and that there is a unique relations between Jordanians and Palestinians. Through joint suffering, Mr. Khatib added, this unique relationship has been strengthened to the extent that Palestinians and Jordanians are one nation and one family.

Jordan believes in non-alignment and non-polarisation and is working hard for reaching a just, comprehensive, and peaceful solution, based on the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights on their national soil and the implementation of United Nations

resolutions, Mr. Khatib said. He added that establishing peace in the region is the responsibility of the whole international community, which should support the call for holding an international peace conference, in which all parties concerned with the conflict and the U.N. Security Council's permanent members take part.

Mr. Khatib also said that Jordan rejects individual solutions and therefore it has called for joint Arab efforts and has worked towards this direction.

Speaking about the Jordanian media, Mr. Khatib said they reflect the political and economic positions of Jordan and its aspirations in the educational, scientific and cultural fields, and high-

lights its developmental march.

Media convey the image of the country and describes it without affecting its contents in terms of accuracy, facts and honesty in reporting news.

The minister said the successful information man is the public relations man who presents his information message through perseverance, great efforts and by establishing bridges of love and confidence between him and the public.

Mr. Khatib also said that there are no barriers in this country between the government and the citizens and that the relations between the leader and the people is a strong and continuing family relation, whose foundations have been laid down by the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein. Hence, he added, all officials should reflect this relation, develop it, and interact with it.

Mr. Khatib then answered questions from his student audience and later toured the various sections of the mass communication department and met with the university president Dr. Adnan Badran.

## Wyoming governor ends visit

AMMAN (AP) — Wyoming Governor Ed Herschler ended a two-nation tour of the Middle East on Monday, saying he had "fruitful discussions" with Jordanian officials.

The main business in Jordan occurred Saturday, when University of Wyoming President Donald Veal signed an agreement with the University of Jordan for exchanges of students and research on agricultural matters, Herschler said in a brief interview Monday.

He said he also had "some very fruitful discussions yesterday" with the ministers of information, energy and electricity.

"Our Western Research Institute at the University of Wyoming is actively involved in oil shale research and they (the Jordanians) seemed to be interested in cooperating with us," he said.

## Ibrahim Katbi honoured for 50-year dental career

AMMAN (Petra) — Dr. Ibrahim Katbi, a pioneer Jordanian dentist who also served as the special dentist for the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, was honoured Monday by the Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) for his fifty years of service to Jordanian dentistry.

Addressing the participants in the celebration, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said the ceremony was an expression of the con-

structive, serious work and the distinguished efforts Dr. Katbi has exerted in the field of dentistry. Dr. Hamzeh also praised the JDA's initiative and called on all associations and institutions to honour the pioneers among their members.

Dr. Katbi thanked Dr. Hamzeh and the JDA and expressed his pride in the organisation and its achievements.

## Dakhqan meets visiting Iraqi minister for agricultural talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Ahmad Dakhqan met with the visiting Iraqi Minister of Agriculture and Agricultural Reform Siddiq Abdul Latif and discussed cooperation between the two countries and means of strengthening and consolidating bilateral ties.

Mr. Dakhqan expressed the hope that the Iraqi minister's visit to Jordan will strengthen ties of cooperation and will allow an opportunity for the exchange of views on coordination and mutual interests.

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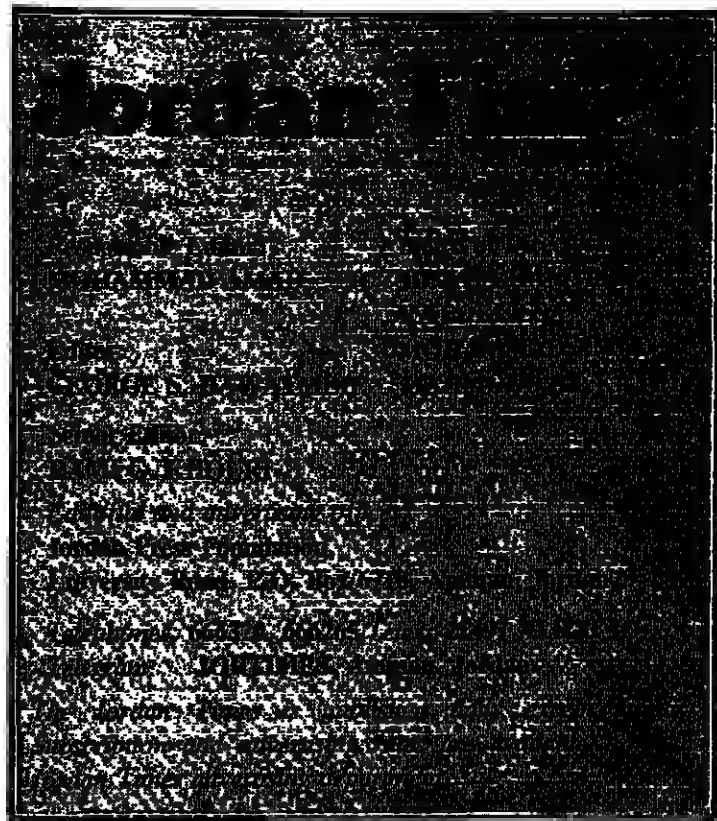
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ROYAL ABU SHAKRA BAJADER WADI AL-SER TEL: 817419  
TOWER COMMERCIAL CENTRE - PRINCE MOHAMMAD STR. TEL: 658035 - 669030  
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## Positive visit

A NUMBER of positive elements have emerged from talks in Jordan over the past several days between Jordanian leaders and Mr. Claude Cheysson, member of the Executive Commission of European Community (EC) in charge of North-South relations.

At a meeting with His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday, Mr. Cheysson voiced the EC's support for Jordan's political efforts and backed its Feb. 11 accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for achieving peace in the Middle East. Mr. Cheysson informed Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour and told a press conference just before his departure that the EC will look into ways of balancing its trade with Jordan, which is heavily in favour of Europe at the present, and in the coming year the Community will study means of increasing its assistance to Jordanian development projects. He also said the EC was deeply impressed by the way Jordan has been handling loans and grants in implementing projects for developing its manpower, agriculture, industry and energy.

Mr. Cheysson would not have voiced the EC's support for Jordanian efforts had not these efforts been genuinely directed towards development on the domestic front and oriented towards lasting and honourable peace on the external level. In its Venice declaration of 1980 the EC called for a negotiated settlement to the Palestine problem and stressed that the PLO should be involved in any effort for peace in the Middle East. Mr. Cheysson reiterated this position in a lecture he delivered at the World Affairs Council on Saturday and we were happy to hear him stress the fact that there can be no peace in the region if the Palestinians are not granted their inalienable rights in their own homeland.

In their meetings with Cheysson, Jordanian officials have undoubtedly reaffirmed the need for the EC to play a more meaningful role to resolve the Middle East conflict. Also, though contrary to expectations, Mr. Cheysson did not reveal an EC contribution towards the on-going peace endeavours, he nevertheless made it clear that Europe was open to new ideas and suggestions that can help the EC launch new efforts for peace in the area. This statement, coming from a leading EC official and an experienced politician like Mr. Cheysson, points to the fact that the Europeans would like to hear clear Arab views on how best Europe can play its role in formulating and propagating initiatives and formulas to solve the Palestinian problem.

In all, Mr. Cheysson's visit here was a welcome step which should keep the channels of communications open between the Europeans and Arabs for the sake of continued friendship among them in the service of peace and stability not only in this region but also for the whole world.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Exemplary relationship

A JOINT communique issued at the end of a visit to Jordan by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan reflects determination by Jordan and Iraq to continue working together to achieve full integration in all fields and at all levels. Mr. Ramadan, summing up his meetings with Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, pledged that Iraq will remain faithful to its commitment to Jordan and will work closely with the Jordanian people to achieve the highest Arab aspirations. Observers of Jordanian-Iraqi relations find the agreements between the two countries as reflecting the true feelings of the two peoples and aiming to achieve common goals for them and for the whole Arab nation. An Arab observer can only look with admiration at what the two countries have been striving to achieve for their people to enable them to confront common challenges and dangers. Jordanian-Iraqi relations have now gone a long way towards achieving national goals and have been strengthened over the years thanks to the wise leaderships of both countries. We hope this relationship will benefit the whole Arab nation in the years to come.

### Al Dustour: Soviet support

A LETTER sent by the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to King Hassan II of Morocco contained the essence of Soviet policies towards the problems of this area. These policies are supported by all Arab states because they are regarded as stable and balanced. Soviet policies are based on deep understanding of the conflict in the Middle East and have been translated into concrete reality at many occasions and at international forums in words and deeds. In his letter, the Soviet leader expressed his country's support for the rights of the Palestinian people and called on the Arabs to forego their differences and work towards achieving solidarity necessary for the defence of their land. On the other hand, when one looks at American policies towards the Middle East one can clearly see a totally different picture, because Washington's policies are biased towards Israel which continues to usurp Arab rights and pursue aggression against Arab countries. Soviet diplomats have indeed translated their country's policies into reality and have really worked to strengthen their country's relations with the Arab nation.

### Sawt Al Shaab: On the right track

JORDAN'S CURRENT endeavours to strengthen its economic and trade ties with the Arab World reflect the country's real keenness on building up an intrinsic Arab force, capable of fending off all dangers. The signing of agreements with Egypt and Iraq are not only designed to strengthen Jordan's ties with these two countries but are rather aimed at building up a nucleus for a strong Arab entity, fully integrated in agricultural, industrial, trade, transport and other fields. The agreements are only signs on the road of construction, which Jordan seeks to achieve for the Arabs. On the other hand, Jordan seeks to build very strong relations with Europe and the presence of Claude Cheysson in Amman and his talks with Jordanian leaders over the past few days reflected this inclination, and demonstrated Jordan's endeavours to bolster its ties with foreign nations and win their support for Arab causes.

# Israel, U.S. place obstacles in the path of peace

By Dr. Mattityahu Peled

Dr. Peled is one of the two Israeli Messer Members belonging to the Progressive Shale for Peace. He also teaches Arabic literature at Tel Aviv University. The following is a speech he made to the conference of Non-Governmental Organisations, held in Geneva Sept. 4-12, 1985.

REGARDLESS of the final formulation of the title of this morning's discussion I would like to emphasise that in the telegramme I received from the Undersecretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, I was invited to participate as an expert member of the panel entitled "Ways and Means to Implement United Nations Resolution 338 C to Convene an International Peace Conference on the Middle East and present a paper on that subject," and this is what I intend to do in the time at my disposal.

The text of that resolution leaves no doubt that, in the opinion of the General Assembly, the solution of the Palestinian problem requires that the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination be fully recognised, that the PLO be recognised as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, that this organisation should participate on an equal footing with other parties in the peace process and that Israel should put an end to the occupation of territories it has been occupying since 1967 and eliminate all traces of the occupation. All this, clearly stated in the Resolution, should be accomplished while the right of all States in the region to exist in peace and security is fully recognised.

That resolution does not set before the international community goals which are illusory, although they seem to be far reaching; what it set out to do is lay

down a programme which the experience of the conflict has shown to be the only one possible if peace is to be established in the region. Or, rather, the only one which can bring an end to the conflict. This has not been realised by the General Assembly one cloudy morning on 13 December 1983; it is a lesson learnt over the years and formulated in a variety of circumstances since Security Council Resolution 338 has been adopted. The gist of that Resolution is that the parties directly involved in the conflict should meet around the negotiating table based on the principles enunciated by Security Council Resolution 242. As we all know, the format provided by Resolution 338 was tested in a couple of sessions and was suspended by the U.S., once it felt that a settlement based on a narrower basis, excluding the Soviet Union, would better serve their interests.

For a moment it looked as if the U.S. had second thoughts when the American-Soviet statement of October 1977 was issued. That statement went one step beyond Resolution 338 in that it recognised the centrality of the Palestinian problem, which in effect went unrecognised in both 242 and 338. But the joint statement was doomed and soon abandoned in preference, by the U.S., for the Camp David process which resulted in a bilateral peace between Israel and Egypt, a peace which in effect has soon been put in cold storage and became a turning point leading towards greater tragedies for the people of the region. There is no doubt that the Camp David accord led to the ruthless and adventurous Israeli air raid on the nuclear installation in Iraq and to the two invasions of Lebanon, in 1978 and 1982.

These tragic consequences of the Camp David accord came in spite of the two positive elements

written into them. The first one is the principle that Israel should withdraw all the way to the pre-1967 borders in the framework of a peace treaty, as indeed is required by the General Assembly resolution we are discussing today, and the second is the recognition that the Palestinian problem should be solved on the basis of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Yet, this dramatic move failed because the U.S. has tried to use the peace process as a means of furthering its interests in the region at the expense of those of the Soviet Union. Furthermore, it failed because Israel has tried to use the peace process as a means of furthering its aggression against the Palestinian people.

These are sad lessons but they should not be allowed to be forgotten. They should be borne in mind now especially, since we are witnessing a new attempt by the U.S. to generate a new phase in the process meant to further their interests under the pretext of reviving the peace process. But in the meantime the idea of what might be termed a wholistic approach has not died. In September 1982 President Brezhnev proposed a plan for peace in the Middle East which was based on the concept that has eventually been incorporated in the General Assembly resolution we are considering today. This plan, having been adopted in effect by the Arab Summit at Fez and by the PNC in 1983, has naturally become the basis for the General Assembly plan of resolution. The merits of this plan or programme is that it provides a framework for searching for a solution which would be acceptable to all the parties to the conflict and at the same time enable the big powers to both look after their own vital interests and provide guarantees that the settlement reached would be implemented and observed. Compared to any

thing proposed by the U.S. there is no doubt that the proposal to search for peace within the framework of an international peace conference certainly holds out greater promise to success.

A few words should be said about the obstacles faced by the General Assembly's programme. I do not think it should be doubted that the people of the Middle East are eager for peace. But peace is often presented as great danger or as tantamount to the renunciation of elementary rights. By thus presenting peace to the people, the anti-peace forces manage to mobilise on their side a great deal of support which they would certainly lose if the fears they generate could be allayed. This is a point which very often tends to be disregarded. In other words, there is a psychological dimension which must be borne in mind when political proposals are made to solve the problems besetting peoples at war.

A great deal is made by American and Israeli propaganda of any ambiguity that can be found in proposals they do not like. For example, when the 16th PNC, having adopted the Brezhnev plan, failed to mention the name of Israel, this was interpreted by hostile propaganda as proof of the insincerity underlying the resolution. These days, too, the U.S. is attempting to persuade Jordan and the PLO to renounce their adherence to the idea of an international peace conference and some indications point to the possibility that the U.S. may propose direct contacts with the PLO, in return for abandoning the demand for such a conference.

There should be no doubt that a rejection of such American suggestions by Jordan and the PLO of which I have no doubt, will be interpreted by Israel and the U.S. as proof of their unwillingness to

make peace. In order to meet such a false interpretation of their motives they would be wise to emphasise the expected consequences of an international peace conference. It would make good sense to point out that within the framework of such a conference certain measures which seem now very unlikely might be made possible, such as direct talks between the Israeli and the Palestinian delegations, or the acceptance of certain limitations of the exercise of sovereignty which cannot be discussed in any other format. What I am suggesting is the taking of active measures to counter the argument that an international peace conference would only enable the anti-American and anti-Israeli forces to put sticks into the wheels of the wagon of peace.

During yesterday the phenomenon of Jewish Nazism has been mentioned. Indeed, we are faced today, in Israel, with what I consider the most terrible and most ironic revenge taken by Adolph Hitler against the Jewish people in that his very ideology, the ideology of Nazi racism, has been wholly embraced by a large number of Jews in Israel and outside. There are very deep roots to this development, and the policy of annexation and unremitting aggression against the Palestinian people by Israel has certainly provided the fertilizer upon which such a shameful poisonous growth has thrived.

But let me draw your attention to the fact that such developments are coming hand in hand with others, no less dangerous. I would like to draw your attention specifically to the report of the Institute for Disarmament Studies in Washington, published a few weeks ago, in which it is stated that Israel has at its disposal 15 to 28 nuclear devices that can be launched by ballistic missiles or by aircraft. An immediate result of this report has been a statement issued in Dam-

ascus by the foreign ministers of Syria, Libya and Iran saying that the three governments have decided to acquire nuclear capabilities to be directed against Israel. Thus the open and acknowledged nuclear race has begun in the Middle East.

In Israel, few paid attention to this terrifying development, since most people and all the mass media were busy following the developments in Hebron, where a few crazy chauvinists and the government had shown shameful timidity in dealing with them. But the point to bear in mind is that these crazy elements may come to power and lay their hands on the nuclear weapons and thus plunge the entire region in a nuclear holocaust.

Stopping these developments is the responsibility of those in Israel who are committed to peace and peaceful coexistence. But we need a more vigorous drive for peace in and outside Israel to help us arrest the flood of insanity that is rising within our society. I do not believe that this can be achieved at this stage without the two superpowers coming to an agreement on how to tackle the Middle Eastern situation. We are all waiting anxiously for the forthcoming meeting between President Rea-

gan and Mr. Gorbachev, hoping that one of the outcomes would be an agreement on the question of an international peace conference in the Middle East. Perhaps we have reached the stage where the local powers are no longer capable to solve their conflict, and the entire power to deal with the situation has passed into the hands of the superpowers. If they fail to come to an agreement then it seems that the Middle East will be heading towards greater calamities than those it had experienced up to now — Israel and Palestine Political Report.

## Peru's path to peace

Peru finds its armaments bill horrendous. President Garcia is trying to cut it and at the same time urging other South American governments to do the same. Hugh O'Shaughnessy outlines the first steps towards more peaceful nations in the area.

PERU'S PEACE offensive, perhaps the most ambitious scheme by a Third World country to beat its swords into ploughshares, is getting under way fast.

Since the 36-year-old President Alan Garcia came to power in Peru at mid-year and announced he was keen on a regional pact which would cut spending on arms throughout South America, the Peruvian diplomatic machine, headed by Mr. Allan Wagner, his 43-year-old Foreign Minister, has been in top gear.

When the Garcia administration took over from the palatial regime of President Fernando Belaunde in July, it was clear that Peru could neither pay for the arms it had already acquired nor maintain its recurrent military budget.

The decision was immediately taken to cut the number of French Mirage 2000 fighters Peru would take from 26 to 12 and to try to find a buyer for the remainder, thus slashing many hundreds of millions of dollars from the acquisitions bill.

It was also decided to continue paying off the \$1 billion debt to the Soviet Union for arms — from T-54 tanks to Mi-8 helicopters — which had been supplied to previous Peruvian military governments, by obliging Moscow to take Peruvian commodities rather than money. But that still left a defence budget of \$1.33 billion which Peru, in deep economic crisis, could ill afford.

At the same time, President Garcia decided to transform a domestic economic imperative into an international crusade. Pointing at the upward spiral of Third World expenditure on arms, he said in a speech prepared for the 40th anniversary of the U.N.: "I am sure that more human beings have died because money used on arms was not spent on them than the total of all those killed in all the wars which have taken place in our times."

"Every bullet, 99 per cent of which are used in firing practice, represents a meal which could have been given to a child to protect him from death."

Mr. Wagner has been charged with putting the president's strategy into practice, and he has not done badly so far.

Enormously tall, bespectacled

and an accomplished wordsmith, Mr. Wagner was the star pupil of the diplomatic academy in 1967. After joining the foreign service the following year, he rose through the grades as fast as the regulations permitted.

His appointment as foreign minister has proved to be a considerable boost to the morale of his professional colleagues. During the Belaunde period, Peru's formidable corps of diplomats felt slighted by a president who reproached them for being too identified with the previous reformist military governments and their non-aligned international strategies.

At the end of October, Mr. Wagner made the first trip by a Peruvian foreign minister to Ecuador, whose relations with Peru have been clouded for over a century by a border dispute dating back to colonial times.

A brief and inconsequential war was fought between the two countries in 1941 and shots were fired across the border again in 1981. Mr. Wagner's trip to Quito, if it did not put an end to the dispute, certainly laid the basis for talks about a mutual reduction of armaments.

Recently, Mr. Wagner undertook the more delicate task of talking to Peru's southern neighbour Chile on arms reductions. Chile seized Peruvian territory in the 1879 War of the Pacific, a situation which still rankles in many Peruvian breasts.

In a low-key meeting with his Chilean counterpart Mr. Jaime del Valle, Mr. Wagner pressed from the Chileans an undertaking to work for better relations and a reduction of armaments.

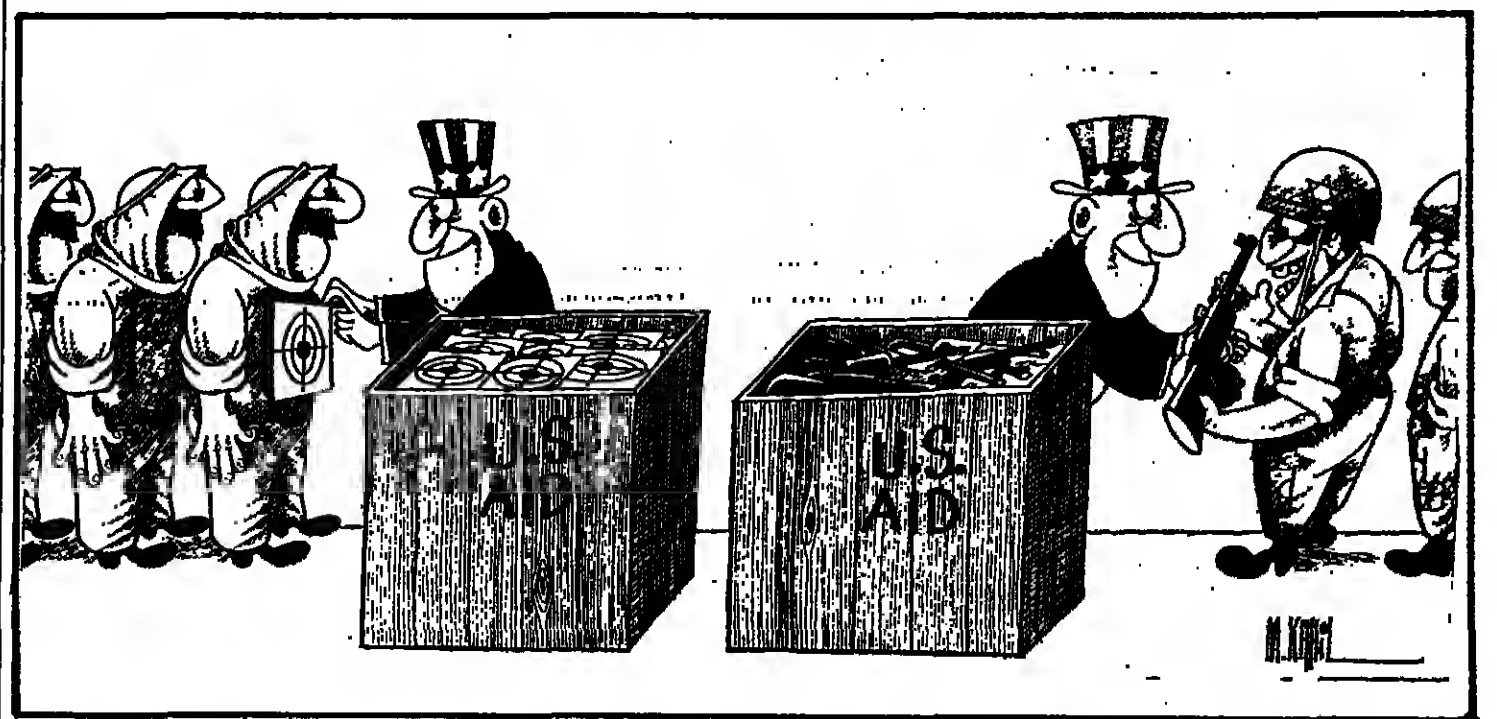
The Pinochet regime, anxious to modify its status as something of an international diplomatic pariah, is clearly willing to cut its arms budget in exchange for some kind words from a democracy like Peru, especially now that Chile's relations with its powerful Western neighbour Argentina are better.

Chile and Argentina this year signed a definitive agreement on their dispute over the Beagle Channel and consequently the Chilean regime's defence needs are less than they were — Financial Times news feature.

South American defence expenditure (\$ per capita)

Argentina	431
Brazil	10
Chile	141
Colombia	17
Ecuador	23
Peru	75
Venezuela	58

Source: International Institute for Strategic Studies.



## Moscow says: U.S. is violating the spirit of Geneva

By Andrew Rosenthal  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — A month after the U.S.-Soviet summit, the Kremlin is making fresh charges over U.S. space weapons and accusing Washington of violating the spirit of the Geneva meeting.

Also, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev is pressing the United States to join his moratorium on nuclear testing, which expires Dec. 31.

Immediately after the summit, Soviet press commentary and official statements shifted to a more positive tone to reflect Gorbachev's own assessment of the meeting.

The Communist Party chief said the summit provided a basis for improving U.S.-Soviet relations and stressed the importance of personal contacts between leaders of the superpowers.

But Gorbachev and other off-

icials were disappointed at not getting U.S. concessions on the space-based Strategic Defence Initiative. Soviet public statements on the issue have now picked up in advance of the resumption of U.S.-Soviet arms talks Jan. 16.

The Communist Party daily Pravda recently charged that what it called reactionary circles and tools of the military-industrial complex in the U.S. are trying to reverse the gains of the Geneva summit. Novosti press agency analyst Alexander Malyshev echoed Pravda's attack.

"In all likelihood, these circles have made up their minds to prevent the implementation of the agreements reached between the Soviet and American leaders and frustrate, or at least devalue, a new summit," he said.

The "agreement" mentioned was the joint summit statement calling in part for progress at the

Geneva talks to negotiate an end to the arms race on earth and a prevention of an arms race in space.

"Though the joint statement is not a treaty, Moscow believes it is a binding and fundamental directive of the two leaders," Malyshev said.

The Soviets say the joint statement commits the United States to stopping research into space weapons and that its refusal to do so violates that commitment.

The U.S. position is that there is no such commitment. Space research continues.

Pursuing their campaign against "Star Wars," the Soviets last week outlined possible Kremlin responses to any U.S. space defenses.

They said they weren't planning a programme like it but would take cheaper countermeasures rendering U.S. space defence systems "useless junk."

At the same time, they harshly

criticised British and West German plans to take part in U.S. space defence programme.

Soviet commentators linked the space weapons dispute to the nuclear testing moratorium announced by Gorbachev last July, saying the United States won't go along with it because it is developing lasers powered by nuclear blasts for use in outer space.

Gorbachev said he would extend the moratorium if the United States joined in. But the White House said it is against declared moratoriums because they cannot be enforced and called instead for negotiations on a test ban.

With the expiration date approaching, Gorbachev told the Soviet and American co-presidents of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning group, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, that it would not be extended without U.S. participation.

## U.S., Soviet Union seeking to beat 'Star Wars'

By Charles Aldinger  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — American scientists are already searching for ways to beat "Star Wars" space-based missile defence systems and say they are sure the Soviet Union is paralleling American efforts.

President Reagan, whose Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) called for research into a system that could provide a shield against a missile attack, says such offensive defences could make defensive nuclear war obsolete.

But American scientists say both sides are already seeking ways to beat strategic defences.

"Both sides are spending tens of millions of dollars looking ahead to develop defences against the defences," John Pike of the Federation of American Scientists told Reuters.

"The simple fact is that... any

defences against attacking nuclear missiles are unlikely to get the upper hand permanently — maybe for several years, but not permanently."

The United States is engaged in a highly controversial \$26 billion research effort on lasers and other ground- and space-based defences to shoot down nuclear missiles in flight.

The U.S. says that, despite denials, Moscow has for years conducted anti-missile research along lines similar to SDI.

At the same time, defence analysts say, both sides are working on nuclear forces that could thwart Star Wars, including manoeuvrable warheads and lower-flying missiles.

U.S. military officials, who spoke to Reuters on condition that they not be identified, confirmed the U.S. air force was investigating several areas, including:

— Aerosol sprays to surround

attacking nuclear warheads with a cloud that would scatter emissions of radar waves.

— Special warheads for big MX missiles which might come in and destroy Soviet radars used in a Star Wars defence.

— Decoys that would imitate the distinctive, smoky wake of nuclear weapons reentering the atmosphere and draw fire away from actual nuclear warheads.

One of the most secret U.S. government projects is the Advanced Strategic Missile Systems (ASMS) programme at Norton Air Force base in California. Pentagon officials refuse any comment on the work being done there.

But Pike and other private experts said both Moscow and Washington were apparently close to perfecting long-range warheads able to manoeuvre as they approach their targets, thus helping them avoid high-speed defensive projectiles.

Published reports have said both sides are looking at possible development of space weapons that might use lasers or ramming techniques to knock out space-based defensive lasers and battle stations.

Senior Soviet scientists said last week the Soviet Union had proved a space defence shield as planned by the United States would not work. Systems they were developing to foil it would be cheaper than the original, they said.

Roald Sagdeyev, a top expert, told a Moscow news conference that Soviet scientists had studied many scenarios involving an SDI-type defence.

"Even today, several dozen various components of counter-measures exist," he declared. He said these involved weapons of greater manoeuvrability and speed of deployment but gave no further details.



مكتبة لائل

## World's smallest state, Vatican protects heritage of millennia

National Geographic News Service

WASHINGTON — Vatican City — 108.7 acres in the heart of Rome — is the smallest sovereign state in the world. Even tiny Liechtenstein, the "postage-stamp principality," is 360 times larger than the Vatican.

Vatican City's permanent resident population is about 300. Its work force numbers slightly fewer than 2,000, more than 90 per cent of whom are ordinary residents of Rome.

Despite its diminutive size, the Vatican has all the trappings of nationhood: its own postage stamps, its own diplomatic corps, its own flag, and its own "army" — the colourful Swiss Guard.

Only about 400 people have Vatican citizenship. Two-thirds of them are either Swiss Guards or

members of the Holy See's diplomatic corps serving abroad.

### Those who sleep there

Of the 300 who sleep within the Vatican's walls, 100 are Swiss Guards. The rest include cardinals, altar boys, members of religious orders, students at two colleges on the grounds, a few families of the "men of St. Peter" — janitors, craftsmen, and other labourers — and the Pope.

John Paul II, the former Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland, has been leader of the world's 800 million Roman Catholics since October 1978. He is the 264th Bishop of Rome, linked in direct succession to the first bishop, St. Peter.

But the Vatican's aura of timelessness is an illusion in many ways. The Vatican City State dates

its existence only from 1929, when the Lateran Treaty between Mussolini's Italian government and the Holy See resolved a long dispute by recognising the Vatican's sovereignty and establishing its borders.

Beneath the towering altar of St. Peter's Basilica, the world's largest church, lie what are believed to be the bones of St. Peter, the first Pope.

The architecture that now surmounts the ancient grave is mainly the product of a wave of creative energy in the 16th and 17th centuries. It was initiated by Julius II, the "warrior Pope," when the original basilica built by Constantine in the fourth century was showing signs of structural decay.

Numerous artists had a hand in planning the new basilica, including the elderly and ailing Michelangelo, who designed the mag-

nificent dome. Another artist who left a lasting imprint on the basilica was Gian Lorenzo Bernini. His 17th-century statuary adorns the cross-shaped building, and his bronze twisted-column baldachin provides a canopy over the altar.

Bernini's "grand colonnade," formed of two semicircles surmounted by heroic statues of the saints, makes St. Peter's Square one of the most magnificent outdoor spaces in the world," writes James Fallows in the December National Geographic.

### Restoring Michelangelo

Maintaining the Vatican's museums, gardens, and buildings requires constant attention. Green protective netting temporarily covers the facade of St. Peter's, which is being cleaned and refurbished. Shielded scaffolding also obstructs part of the Sistine Chapel, where a 12-year project is under way to restore Michelangelo's ceiling and other priceless paintings to their original splendor.

The work is being done under an agreement between the Vatican and a Japanese television network, which paid \$3 million for the rights to chronicle the restoration.

In May 1972, a crazed man with a hammer severely damaged Michelangelo's "Pietà" in the basilica. The white marble statue was painstakingly repaired before Christmas that year. Today it is behind bulletproof glass.

Plainclothesmen are deployed throughout the display rooms of the Vatican museums. From a central control room, supervisors monitor 25 closed-circuit TV screens.

The Vatican, Fallows writes, "cannot really take credit for the genius of Michelangelo — or for Bernini, or Bramante, or the other artists who have adorned it over the years. But to have inspired so much devotion and creation, over so many ages, places it on a unique plane as a patron of the arts. When other organisations have survived and inspired over two millennia, let them question and judge."

Most of the day-to-day work in the Vatican depends on the efforts

of ordinary men and women who work from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., six days a week. Their pay is lower than salaries in Rome, but, as Fallows notes, "the Vatican is never going to close down like a steel mill. It very rarely lays anyone off, and its employees pay no income tax."

The largest employer is Vaticano Radio, with nearly 400 workers. It began broadcasting in 1931 and now beams messages to the world in 35 languages.

### Swiss protect Pope

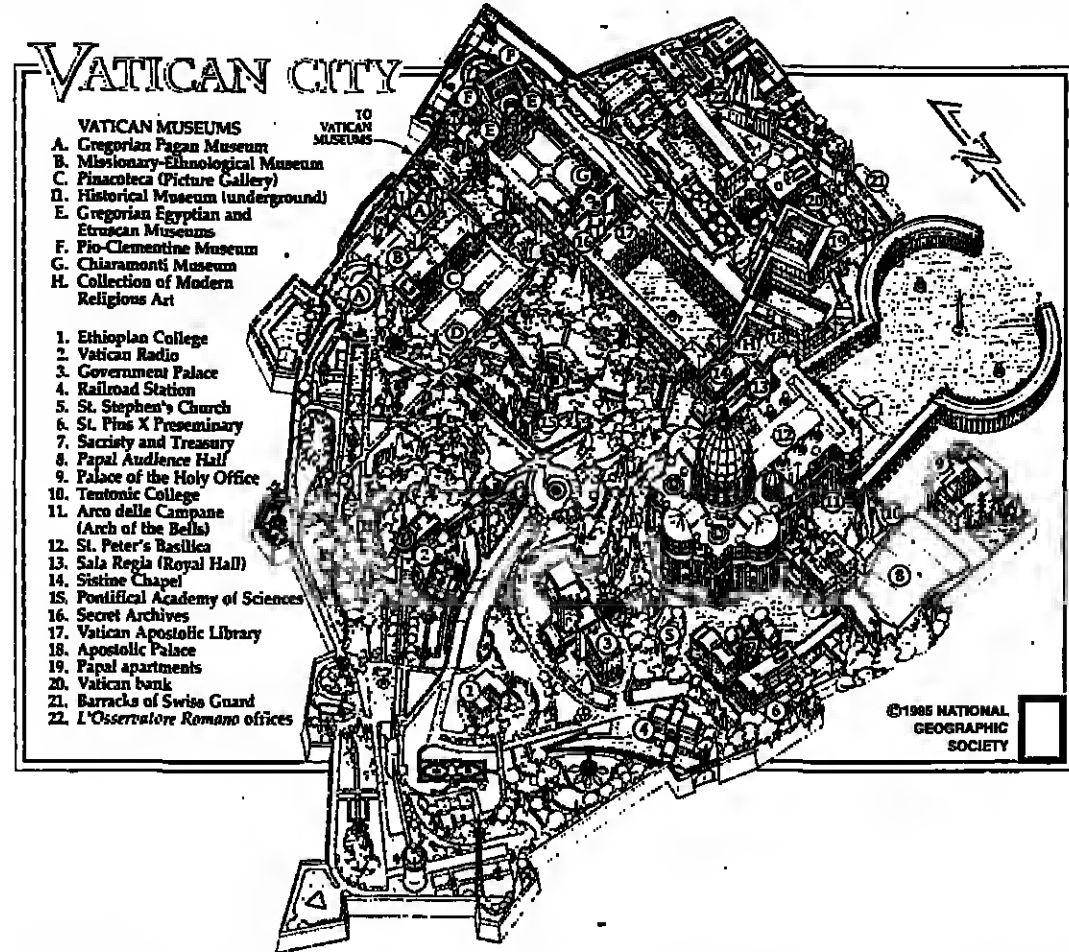
Besides the Pope and the cardinals, the most famous people in the Vatican are the Swiss Guard, formed in the early 1500s and composed of young Swiss Catholic men. The guard is responsible for the personal protection of the

Pope. Since the attempted assassination of John Paul II in 1981, training has become more rigorous, and includes karate, judo, and the use of weapons.

The youngest segment of the Vatican's population is the 30 to 40 altar boys, most of them from northern Italy. Contemplating a career in the priesthood, the youths attend the three-year pre-seminary school on the Vatican grounds, starting at age 11.

The Vatican's tone of agelessness pervades its every aspect, even the complaints about its ineffectiveness and "Mediterranean inefficiency." After such a conversation with Fallows, a middle-aged Jesuit concluded with a phrase often heard:

"Whatever the church is doing wrong, it's done it for 2,000 years."



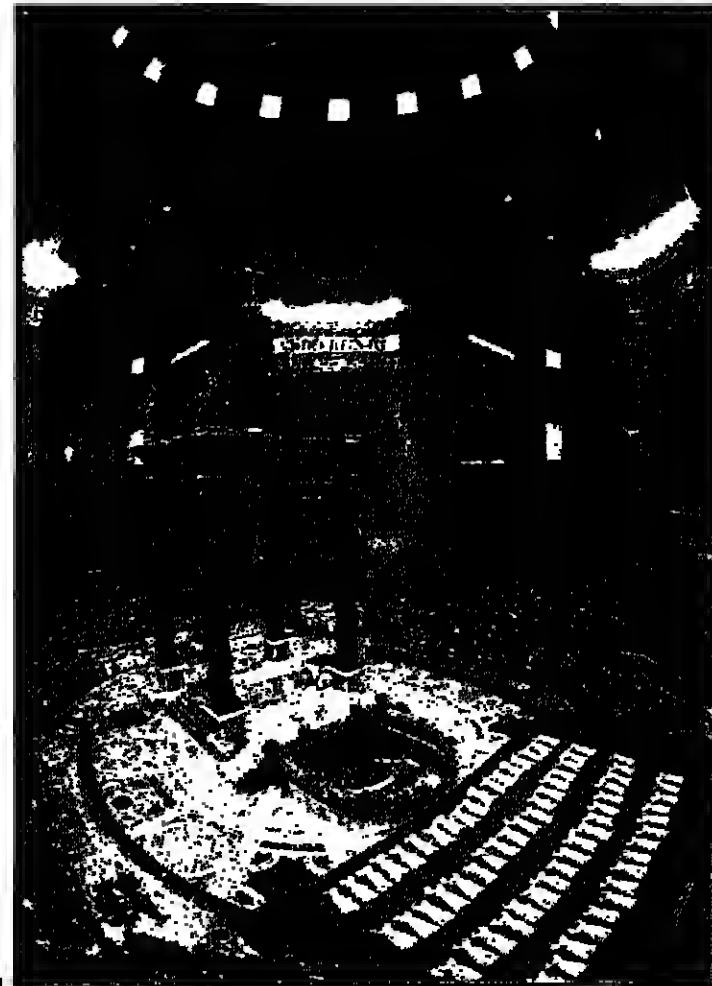
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Inside St. Peter's Basilica, candidates for priesthood from 22 countries lie prostrate in humility before the high altar as they take their vows during an ordination mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II. Today's basilica, on the site of Constantine's original church, was rebuilt in the 16th and 17th centuries.

## 'Silent Night, Holy Night'

MORE than any other country in the world, Austria is thought of as the home of immortal music. People of all ages and all nationalities are familiar with the work of the great composers whose lives were spent in Austria: The operas of Mozart, the symphonies of Beethoven and the waltzes of the Strauss family. Yet there is one other Austrian composition which has become known and loved throughout the world: The Christmas carol "Silent Night, Holy Night," which — although few people realise it — started life in a tiny village in the Austrian countryside.

This most perfect of all Christmas carols owes its existence to a succession of coincidences. In 1818 in the village church of Oberndorf in Salzburg Province the mice had damaged the organ bellows, and the organ-builder could not complete the repairs in time for the Christmas services. As a last resort the village curate, Josef Mohr, wrote the words for a new carol, and the schoolmaster from the neighbouring village, Franz Xaver Gruber, set the text to music for two solo voices, choir and guitar accompaniment. The carol was first heard during the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve 1818 in the ancient parish church of St. Nikola in Oberndorf. Gruber sang the bass part, Mohr the tenor part, and the choir joined in — possibly a wise decision this — only for the refrain.

The carol might well have been forgotten had the organ-builder, Karl Mauracher, who was indirectly responsible for its composition, not memorized it and seen that it was performed next Christmas Eve in his home parish of Fügen, in Tyrol's Zillertal. It was Tyrolean folk singers who subsequently performed "Silent Night" all over the world.

## Santa Claus finds a wife in Finland

By Martyn Summerhill  
Reuter

ROVANIEMI, Finland — After centuries of carrying out his festive tasks alone, Santa Claus has found a mate — Mother Christmas.

Visits to Santa's spouse are one of the attractions offered to visitors by a commercial hotel chain in Finnish Lapland this year, along with the more traditional reindeer rides.

Mother Christmas is not a rival but a wife, and wears a red dress resembling his costume. But this has not spared her some unseasonal controversy, with Finnish feminist organisations giving her a mixed reception.

"I think the idea is silly. Santa has not really got any sex. He is just an old tradition and why should we not keep what we have?" one official said.

But a member of another organisation insisted: "Yes, it is a good idea. Having a Mother Christmas as well as Santa Claus himself will make the whole thing less male-dominated. And the helpers should always be of both sexes too."

The married Santa should not be confused with the official Father Christmas who is toiling away

with 30 helpers in Rovaniemi, on the Arctic circle, in answer letters from thousands of children all over the world.

Still celibate, he is paid by the local authorities as part of a drive against seasonal unemployment.

Santa and his helpers will be answering about 200,000 letters this year. "We have got letters from all over the world," said one of the helpers.

"We have got some from Barbados, Bahrain, Costa Rica, Martinique and Zimbabwe. There have been as many as 18,000 from Japan and 13,000 from Australia, with 6,000 from Britain, almost 3,000 from the United States and about a thousand from Poland and West Germany and Hungary."

Their answers go in the form of a multilingual message. The post office says any mail will reach Santa here, however addressed if it is clearly meant for the old boy.

Many letters, Santa says, contain requests for space toys. But some girls from the United States have asked him to fix them up with boyfriends.

Japanese children, it seems, are overawed by Santa and too modest to ask for anything. Instead, they just wish for peace in the world and hope Santa will visit Japan.

## Growing number of U.S. companies restrict smoking

By Bart Ziegler  
The Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — A growing number of U.S. companies are telling smokers where they can or can't light up.

Nationwide, more than two dozen companies, including some of the nation's largest, ban smoking in offices and factories except for designated areas, said Regina Carlson, executive director of the New Jersey chapter of GASP — Group Against Smoking Pollution.

Among the two dozen are giants such as Campbell Soup, which employs 33,000 across the U.S., and Adolph Coors, the Colorado beer brewer with 10,000 employees. Strict smoking regulations also are common among hospitals and insurance companies.

Some smoking experts say eventually it will be as strange to see employees smoke on the job as it would be today to see someone pour a drink at work.

Since April, the 450 employees at the headquarters of the Stride Rite Shoe Corporation in Cambridge have had to confine their smoking to a single room off the cafeteria.

"The air is breathable," said Rhonda Rosenbaum, spokeswoman for the company. "It's a much better atmosphere."

"We're not telling people they can't smoke. We're saying you can smoke but only in the place we designate," Ms. Rosenbaum said.

Things are even stricter at Pacific Northwest Bell, the phone company for the states of Washington—Oregon and part of Idaho. Since October, the smokers among the utility's 15,000 employees have been forced to stand outside to take a drag.

"It's not exactly the most pleasant thing in the world to do if you must smoke a cigarette," company spokesman Jim Mozzette, a smoker, said during a recent telephone interview on a snowy, 10-degree (-12 degrees Celsius) day.

However, he added, "we have not had any problem at all. There's not a lot of grumbling and fussing going on."

Many more companies have less stringent restrictions, such as smoking and non-smoking sections in offices and smoke-free eating areas.

Fewer than a dozen employers of any size ban smoking entirely, said Ms. Carlson, who keeps track of corporate smoking restrictions. In addition to Pacific Northwest Bell, these range from the Cigna Health Plan of Phoenix, Arizona, a health maintenance organisation with 1,800 employees, to the Newport Daily News, a newspaper in Newport, Rhode Island, with about 60 workers.

Boeing, the huge Seattle-based airplane manufacturer, has said it intends to work toward a ban on smoking, but has not set a deadline.

Currently, Boeing's 100,000 employees can designate their

work areas as non-smoking, and lighting up is banned in corridors, conference rooms and rest rooms, said spokesman Lee Eastrop.

Walker Merryman, vice president of the Tobacco Institute, said his lobbying group for the cigarette industry is not opposed to smoking restrictions as long as they are fair and workers have been consulted about their implementation.

Experts say employees who smoke cost companies more than non-smokers because they get sick more often, are less productive, have higher rates of industrial accidents and increase the costs for building maintenance.

"You have to wash the windows more frequently, you have to paint the walls more often," said Rita Addison, a consultant who has made a business out of helping corporations set up smoking policies.

A study by William Weiss, a business professor at the University of Seattle and a smoking authority, found an employee who smokes costs a company \$4,600 a year more than one who doesn't.

The American Cancer Society estimates more conservatively that a pack-a-day smoker costs an employer \$625-750 a year. A congressional study estimated last September that American businesses lose \$65 billion a year because of employees who smoke.

U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's annual report on smoking said that smokers are 50 per

cent more likely to need health care than non-smokers.

However, "one study" conducted over the findings that smokers are less productive. Research at a midwestern bank showed employees who smoked were 2.5 per cent more productive than their non-smoking coworkers.

Lawsuits and complaints from employees who claim they are harmed by having to breathe smoke on the job also are prompting change.

In Massachusetts, a state worker sued in 1983 for the right to a smoke-free workplace. After a two-year tussle, the Department of Public Welfare, her employer, agreed to provide her and other non-smokers with a separate office, and the woman dropped the suit. Anti-smoking groups hailed the action as an important precedent.

Many companies with smoking restrictions offer to pay for courses to help employees quit, while a few go so far as to refuse to hire smokers, or to charge them more for health benefits.

At Pacific Northwest Bell, about 1,000 employees have taken advantage of the company's offer to take stop-smoking classes at company expense, spokesman Mozzette said.

He said the utility implemented the smoking ban after an employee research committee concluded it would be too costly to set up smoking lounges with the sophisticated ventilation systems they require.

## Women convicts learn skills, raise children in Egyptian jail

By Ahmed Shawki  
Reuter

CAIRO — At the Barrage jail for women on the River Nile, convicts spend six hours a day at a workshop while toddlers swing on the playground.

Out of 500 prisoners, 38 have children with them and five more are pregnant. Regulations permit mothers to keep children until they are two years old.

The women at the jail outside Cairo are serving sentences of between two and 25 years.

Most of them are trained in needlework, sewing, painting or baking — "to produce something useful for the country and themselves," says prison director Brigadier Shaaban Khalaf.

The bedcovers, clothes, embroidery and underwear they make sell for half the normal price. The women earn 30 to 50 piasters (25 to 45 cents) a day, which is saved for them until their release.

Prison authorities recently opened a garden with swings and toys for the children, distributing soft

drinks and chocolates. The only men present were staff, police and journalists.

Officials say Egyptian women are the most peaceful in the Middle East and women's crime in Egypt is the world's lowest.

Brigadier Hassan Belal, director of the Crime Monitoring Department, says Egyptians, esp-

"Our people, Christians and Muslims alike, abide by traditions and religion... You don't find gangsters or organised street criminals in Egypt," he told Reuters. Yet, crime in Egypt, a country of 49 million people, is on the rise.

Of 703 murders in 1984, a 14 per cent increase from the previous year, 36 were committed by women. Thefts by women, two per cent of the 16,500 total, were 2.8 per cent up.

Official records show that jealousy and revenge were the main

motives for crimes by women such as killing or kidnapping.

Nawal Gomaa, 23, told this reporter she killed her step-mother "to escape ill-treatment and torture." She was sentenced to 25 years.

"I wanted to commit a major crime so as to serve long years in

jail and stay away from home," she said. "I regret that now... I'm spending the best years of my life here."

Nadia El Sawi, who is serving three years for theft, gave birth to a son in prison six months ago. "I was taught to pick pockets when I was six, it's in my blood, I grew up with it," she said. "Now, after the child was born, I may not do it again."

Sabrin Ahmed, mother of four, is serving 25 years for smuggling heroin into Egypt. "I wanted to be rich. I went to Jordan and Syria where I bought cloth and carried heroin for a dealer," she said.

In prison, she became an expert seamstress. "If ever I get released or pardoned, I will concentrate on this profession — it will pay better and be safer," she said.

Modiba Ayoka Hishow, 27, a Nigerian also sentenced to 25 years for smuggling drugs, has learned Arabic and is teaching her fellow convicts English. Although they are illiterate, she predicts they will be fluent by the time they get out.

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# Kasparov sides with rebels, backs moves to 'end chaos, dictatorship'

AMSTERDAM (AP) — A Brazilian-British team Monday announced their candidacy for leadership of the World Chess Federation (Fide), and world champion Garri Kasparov immediately threw his weight behind their campaign to unseat current Fide President Florencio Campomanes.

Speaking at an airport news conference before leaving for Moscow, the Soviet world champion said he felt "there should be an end to the chaotic and dictatorial regime" of Campomanes, a Filipino.

"That's why I wholeheartedly support the candidacies" of Lincoln Lucena of Brazil as the next president and of Raymond Keene of Britain as secretary-general of the world chess body, Kasparov said.

Elections for the Fide leadership are to be held at the next Fide congress in Dubai in Nov. 1986.

Kasparov has spent a week in the Netherlands for an exhibition match against Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman, which he won 4-2. Lucena, president of the Brazilian Chess Federation, and grandmaster Keene, current vice-president of Fide, promised they would give top players a greater

say in Fide affairs and "re-institute democracy to the organization as a whole, which is sadly lacking at present," as Keene put it.

The post Keene seeks overseas day-to-day Fide operations. The vice presidency is largely ceremonial.

Kasparov's objections to Campomanes centre on the current president's decision to require that Kasparov play a return match for the world title next year against fellow Soviet grandmaster Anatoly Karpov.

Kasparov wrested the world championship from Karpov last month after two grueling matches in Moscow.

The first, an open-ended match in which draws did not count toward the final result, was interrupted by Campomanes earlier this year when 48 games had failed to bring a decision. The second, over a limited number of 24 games, ended in November.

"For the past two years I have played 88 games," said Kasparov. "Of which 72 were against Karpov. I don't want him to be my perpetual opponent."

Fide is the overall international body governing and sanctioning professional and amateur chess tournaments.

At Kasparov's request, Rolf Littorin of Sweden, the president of the recently established European Chess Union (ECU), read a letter he had sent to Soviet chess officials urging them to cancel any return match against Karpov.

Littorin said that "it might be harmful for the two players' health," that "neither can benefit the chess world while they're continuously playing each other" and that "neither the Fide grandmasters' council nor Kasparov himself were consulted" when Campomanes made his decision.

The ECU was set up earlier this year as a counterweight to Campomanes' increasingly unpopular presidency.

Kasparov nodded his agreement to the points Littorin mentioned, but when asked whether he would refuse to play Karpov again, he replied, "that is a question that remains to be discussed."

Under Fide rules, Campomanes has the power to order the world champion to play for his title and declare a forfeit if the champion fails to obey, as happened to then-world champion Bobby Fischer of the United States when he refused to show up for his match against challenger Karpov in 1975.

Only the Fide congress, which meets just once a year, has the authority to overrule the president, but never has.

Kasparov said he objected to such "dictatorial practices."

"Chess is a democratic game of free people. No one person should be allowed to change that," the world champion said.

At the press conference, Keene added other grievances against Campomanes' rule, singling out the "draw tax" the current Fide president levied on the two Kasparov-Karpov matches.

The tax was originally intended to make players avoid easy draws, but Keene noted that it resulted in a 20 per cent share of the prize money for the two encounters going to Fide.

The money went to Campomanes' fund for the encouragement of chess in developing countries, according to Keene, but he claimed "there are cheaper ways to that end."

The British grandmaster said that if elected, he and Lucena would also strike a blow against sexual discrimination in the chess world.

Keene charged that "the present Fide rules discriminate against women. They hardly ever get a chance to meet male players in tournament play."

## Iraq draws hosts Bahrain in Gulf Soccer Championship

BAHRAIN (R) — World Cup finalists Iraq Monday were drawn to play hosts Bahrain in the opening match of the eighth Gulf Soccer Championship next March.

Iraq, defending champions and overwhelming favourites, originally planned to boycott the tournament because Qatar was competing.

They were upset that a Qatari player tore up an Iraqi flag after losing to Iraq in a World Cup qualifying match last April.

But Iraqi Football Federation Chairman Uday Saddam Hussein, son of President Saddam Hussein, said in Baghdad that Iraq reconsidered after a request from Bahrain to participate.

# Sweden wins third Davis Cup title

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — Stefan Edberg came from behind to beat Michael Westphal 3-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-3 Sunday and give Sweden its third Davis Cup title with a dramatic 3-2 victory over West Germany.

Earlier Sunday, Wimbledon champion Boris Becker defeated Mats Wilander 6-3, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 to level the score in the final.

Sweden retained the title it won last year over the United States. Its first Davis Cup title came 10 years ago with a victory over Czechoslovakia. It lost to Australia in the 1983 final.

Westphal, ranked 51st in the world, appeared to be taking West Germany to its first Davis Cup title as he went one set up against Edberg, the 19-year-old Australian Open champion who is no. 5 in the world.

But Edberg rallied to break Westphal's booming serve in the 12th game of the second set to level the score.

He trailed again in the third set after dropping his service in the opening game but came back to take the lead and never looked back.

Wilander put Sweden ahead on

Friday by winning the opening singles against Westphal. Becker defeated Edberg to even the score but Sweden regained the lead when Wilander and Joakim Nyström won Saturday's doubles against Becker and Andreas Maurer.

Westphal appeared capable of creating a major upset when he broke Edberg in the sixth game to take the first set convincingly 6-3. Edberg broke Westphal in the sixth game of the second but the West German immediately broke back.

Edberg saved two game balls as the 12th game went to five deuces and then broke Westphal to win the set 7-5 and level the score.

The turning point of the match came in the sixth game of the third set. Edberg stretched to reach a cross-court shot by Westphal. The West German misjudged the ball and let it pass, only to see it bounce just inside.

Westphal then dropped his service to allow Edberg to level at 3-3. The Swede, attacking Westphal's weaker, second serve, broke the West German again in the 10th game to win the set 6-4. He dominated Westphal in the

fourth, breaking him again in the eighth game and then held his own service to win the last game at love and give Sweden the title.

Westphal fired 23 aces past Edberg but was too inconsistent in the final stages of the match to threaten the Swede. Edberg served 13 aces but was devastating at the net.

Becker, 18, who is ranked sixth in the world, was in devastating form against Wilander, the French Open champion and the no. 3 in the world.

Becker gave Wilander a taste of what was to come when he served two aces in winning the opening game of the match.

Becker appeared untroubled by a hip injury which he sustained in training several days ago. He received ultra-sonic treatment and pain-killing tablets shortly before the match, but fired 14 aces on the fast carpet surface and looked in top shape, except in the second set.

Becker was especially effective in the last set, coming out of the locker rooms following the 10-minute break after the third set to race to a decisive 3-0 lead. Wilander squandered two game

balls after being taken to deuce by Becker in the sixth game of the first set.

A line-man then called a foul and Wilander was clearly upset as he netted a backhand after a rare rally to drop his service and give Becker a 4-2 lead.

Becker served out the set at love to take the lead.

Wilander started the second set aggressively, repeatedly charging the net for winning volleys.

The Swede broke Becker for the first time in the second game of the second set when the West German star double-faulted twice. Wilander struggled in the fifth game but saved two game balls to hold his serve and take a 4-1 lead in the second set.

In the next game, Becker stumbled and fell to the ground and West Germany's non-playing team captain Wilhelm Bungert rushed to the court, fearing that Becker might have aggravated his injury.

Becker quickly got up and held his serve but failed to win a single point in the next two games, dropping his service at love in the eighth game as Wilander wrapped the set 6-2 to level the score.

## Thai boxer retains WBA junior bantamweight crown

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's Khaosai Galaxy stopped Panama's Edgar Monserrat with a series of devastating punches in the second round and retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior bantamweight crown Monday.

The scheduled 15-round bout ended at two minutes, 42 seconds of the second round after Khaosai knocked the Panamanian to the canvas for the third time. The referee ruled that the Thai had won by technical knockout.

Monserrat appeared senseless for a few moments and ringside attendants rushed to revive him after his final fall. The brief contest was Khaosai's third defense of the crown that he won in November 1984 from Eusebio Espinal of the Dominican Republic.

Monserrat began the bout with a series of attacks, alternating left and right hooks and using his longer reach to good advantage. The first round was clearly his.

Khaosai, normally a slow starter, rallied quickly in the second, catching Monserrat off guard with a powerful blow to the chin that sent him tumbling to the canvas at 2:04. Twenty seconds later, the Panamanian was down again after an almost identical series of moves and punches by the Thai.

Khaosai next positioned the Jazed, weaving challenger against the ropes and unleashed a series of punishing lefts and rights aimed at the midsection and torso. Monserrat spun around and fell backward to the deck.

"In the first round I didn't do much because I was waiting for the right moment. I was very careful because his straight left worried me," Khaosai said after the fight.

"But I knew that he would not be able to stand up to my left and I could stand up to his," he added. Both fighters are left-handers. The 27-year-old champion, who now has won 28 bouts against only one loss, said he wanted the victory to be a new year's eve present to all his countrymen.

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**ACE UP MY SLEEVE**  
(Colour)


Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



**Cinema AL-HUSSEIN**  
Tel: 622112

**RED DAWN**  
(Colour)


Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00



**Cinema Philadelphia**  
Tel: 634144 - 634149

**OPERATION TIGER**  
(Colour)


Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15



**Cinema RAGHADAN**  
Tel: 622198

**YUDH**  
(Colour)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00



**Cinema OPERA**  
Abdell, behind Alia offices  
Tel: 675573

**AMANI UNDER RAINBOW**  
(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30



## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4280/95	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3937/44	Canadian dollars
	2.5090/105	West German marks
	2.8280/300	Dutch guilders
	2.1080/1100	Swiss francs
	51.25/30	Belgian francs
	7.6950/7000	French francs
	1711/1713	Italian lire
	202.65/80	Japanese yen
	7.6950/7050	Swedish crowns
	7.6740/840	Norwegian crowns
	9.1150/250	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	325.70/326.20	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed mixed with a firm bias. Dealers noted selected issues met demand but overall volume was moderate as season influences took hold. At 11530 GMT Monday the FTSE 100 index was 1.4 firmer at 1387.9.

Lucas closed 22p higher at 480 on continuing optimism in the wake of last week's shareholders meeting. ICI was unchanged at 732. Beecham ended 4p higher at 340. P and O finished 10p higher at 426 after news it had agreed to acquire a 50.01 per cent interest for £36 million in a company holding a 20.8 per cent stake in European Ferries. European Ferries ended 6 1/2p lower at 140. Government bonds ended narrowly mixed, dealers said. Cole Group finished 40p up at 321 after news of an improved agreed offer from Low and Bonar, which closed 2p easier at 326. Allied Colloids firmed 20p to 171 in sympathy, dealers said. Guinness Peat was 1p lower at 69 in ex-dividend form and showed no reaction to an announcement by the company that its final offer for Britannia Arrow would not be increased. Britannia Arrow ended unchanged at 140.

In firmer banks Natwest ended 13p up at 672 while Barclays closed 10p higher at 462. Insurances showed SN Alliance steady at 520 after 523. Among firmer oils B.P. closed 2p up at 548 as did Shell at 660. Golds were lower and North Americans mixed.

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 24, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a day when there is a considerable amount of restlessness in the air which of course goes along with last-minute duties related to the holiday season.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A day when you can handle many activities and elevate your thoughts to higher precepts during this delightful season.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get your funds nicely budgeted so that everyone will be remembered properly. Make sure you get your home nicely decorated so that all will look charming. Get rid of clutter.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If you schedule your time wisely, you can achieve more than you think is possible. Get into the right spirit of things.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You have many errands to run and should bring thoughtful gifts with your warm and generous manner.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be with as many friends as you can in the spirit of the holiday season and show true devotion to them.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Think about support you have had and show appreciation during this holiday season. Run out for last-minute shopping.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Do something that will please newcomers who can be of help to you in the near future. Communicate well with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Use your hunches where last-minute touches are to be completed before holiday celebrations. This can be a memorable evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Do something thoughtful for your associates and improve relationships. Be sure to attend some important function.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Make sure you get all of your gifts nicely wrapped and make your decorations lovely. Have more harmony in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get into the right spirit of things. Show more love for others. Be more inventive where gifts are concerned.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Serve others very well and do more for those who are less fortunate than you. Remember that generosity is a fine trait.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she can easily comprehend the wishes and needs of others. Your progeny will handle practical matters in a most inventive manner. One who will be very quick at the time of any emergency. Teach to complete whatever has been started. An interesting and happy life here.

## THE Daily Crossword by C. F. Murray

ACROSS

- 1 Pet of Nick
- 5 Season
- 10 Early Briton
- 14 Farm building
- 15 Open to view
- 18 Alley Cop's
- 17 Sale words
- 20 Miscount
- 22 Cease to grow
- 24 Mug handle
- 25 Regret deeply
- 27 Magnetic charm
- 32 Yuletide
- 33 Auto need
- 34 Discover
- 36 Slowpoke
- 38 Decline
- 41 Tire feature
- 43 Pod vegetable
- 44 "Merry Widow" composer
- 46 Hindu dress
- 49 Mine entrance
- 51 Sick game
- 53 Readied a bow
- 55 Museum display
- 57 Table scrap
- 59 New Jersey
- 64 Chester
- 65 Arthur
- 66 Ascent
- 67 Nautical call
- 68 Marquand
- 69 detective
- 70 Maternity
- 71 related
- 72 Ridge
- 73 Went over 55
- 74 removed
- 75 Sleeping

DOWN

- 1 Arabian robes
- 2 Window frame
- 3 Singing group
- 4 Response
- 5 W. — Maugham
- 6 A Gardner's
- 7 Fast period
- 8 Common chord
- 9 — Island, NY
- 10 Kettle's tin
- 11 Part of a
- 12 Minn. motto
- 13 Evident
- 14 Sample
- 15 Post
- 16 Grand poetry
- 17 Gaudy material
- 18 Fuel
- 19 Busy spot
- 20 Hawaii
- 21 War god
- 22 Of a surface
- 23 Jap. city
- 24 Cleopatra's
- 25 maid
- 26 Not on time
- 27 Dry stream bed
- 28 Poured wine
- 29 Place for a
- 30 bat
- 31 Slip up
- 32 Joked
- 33 together
- 34 Ontario city
- 35 Whiffers
- 36 Ship deck
- 37 ware
- 38 Hum
- 39 Double
- 40 Heraldic term
- 41 Fictional
- 42 Enamel
- 43 Enamelled
- 44 Looked over
- 45 Sign of ascent

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

- 1 RATION
- 2 SPIRY
- 3 TRIANGLE
- 4 KILN
- 5 TRANSFIXES
- 6 WICK
- 7 BASKET
- 8 PINTO
- 9 BARS
- 10 SHIELD
- 11 ELABOR
- 12 WRANGLING
- 13 DIVE
- 14 RABBIT
- 15 DRUMS
- 16 AMEN
- 17 PIONEER
- 18 TREATMENT
- 19 PAMELA
- 20 BRID
- 21 ANNUALS
- 22 SIBERIA
- 23 MONTANA
- 24 HILL
- 25 MOUNTAIN
- 26 LUMBER
- 27 AMIE
- 28 DICK
- 29 CHERRY
- 30 DARE

DOWN

- 1 Not on time
- 2 Dry stream bed
- 3 Poured wine
- 4 Place for a
- 5 bat
- 6 Slip up
- 7 Joked
- 8 together
- 9 Ontario city
- 10 Whiffers
- 11 Ship deck
- 12 ware
- 13 Hum
- 14 Double
- 15 Heraldic term
- 16 Fictional
- 17 Enamel
- 18 Enamelled
- 19 Looked over
- 20 Sign of ascent

## Foreign exchange analysts predict dollar's decline to stabilise in '86

NEW YORK (R) — The long reign of the strong dollar is over, but foreign exchange analysts worldwide expect its decline to stabilise in 1986. The dollar has been strong since 1981 when the U.S. economy led the world out of recession.

Mr. Tatsuro Arita, head of Fuji Bank Ltd's international money desk in Tokyo, said the currency's levels now "will depend on how market participants see the U.S. economy."

Many analysts expect the dollar to drift down to lows of about 2.35 German marks and 187 Japanese yen by June but then to edge back up to about 2.45 marks and 205 yen by year-end.

The dollar is currently trading around 2.51 German marks and 202 Japanese yen, just above its 1985 lows of 2.50 marks and 199.9 yen of a few weeks ago but well down on February's peaks of 3.48 and 263.7.

"The key swing factor is still U.S. growth and interest rates," added Ms. Anne Mills, foreign exchange analyst at Shearson Lehman Brothers in New York.

Most economists see the U.S. economy expanding at a relatively modest rate of two to three per cent in the first half of 1986 followed by more robust growth of about three to four per cent between July and December.

"The dollar could well bounce back towards mid-year," Ms. Mills said.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

Other bullish factors for the dollar in the latter half of the year could be snags in the implementation of recent laws to balance the U.S. budget by 1991 and signs of resurgent inflation, both of which could push U.S. interest rates higher.

As a result, some analysts said the dollar could shoot above 2.50 German marks and 210 Japanese yen, but they did not expect an advance beyond 2.70 and 230, respectively.

However, the firm commitment of the U.S., France, Japan, Britain and West Germany, the "Group of Five," the their September agree-

ment to achieve an "orderly" decline in the dollar's strength is the main factor against a rebound.

Currencies that will benefit from the dollar's decline should be those of nations with the brightest economic prospects, namely West Germany and Switzerland, analysts said.

Mr. Aloys Schwietert, chief economist at Swiss Bank in Basle, said the dollar might fall as low as 1.90 Swiss francs by the second quarter, compared with about 2.10 francs currently.

The outlook for the British pound has been clouded by oil price unpredictability, which has been exacerbated by OPEC's dramatic about-turn in its long-cherished price support system at the start of last week.

Assuming an average \$23 per barrel price for spot crude oil, sterling may drop to about \$1.35 in the fourth quarter of next year, against \$1.44 currently, said Mr. David Osman, analyst at James Capel in London.

Other analysts saw the pound at between \$1.45 and \$1.55 the year-end.

## 'The Middle East boom is over'

BAHRAIN (R) — Recession in most Gulf Arab countries has sent hundreds of thousands of expatriates packing, from New York executives to Bombay street-sweepers.

"The Middle East boom is over," lamented a Korean construction industry official.

The effect has been most serious on Asian countries like South Korea, Pakistan and India which depend on the oil-fuelled Gulf economies to provide jobs for their nationals and hard currency for their balances of payments.

In Saudi Arabia, the region's economic giant, one official estimated that 50,000 foreigners were leaving every month out of an expatriate population numbering between two and four million.

The oil boom of the 1970s brought a flood of foreign labour to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states — experts from the West lured by fat tax-free contracts and unskilled workers from the Third World just happy to get a well-paid job.

But the 1980s brought an oil glut, a slide in prices and an economic downturn.

Fewer foreign workers are now being recruited, usually for less money. Many already employed in the Gulf are forced to accept lower pay if they want to stay on.

Aramco, which runs most of Saudi oil production, is looking to shed 30 per cent of its workers by 1990, industry sources say. Two-fifths of the 55,000 staff are foreigners.

The economic slowdown is also squeezing business in sectors ranging from construction to cleaning, commerce to banking.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), 600 expatriates out of a 10,000-strong banking workforce have lost their jobs this year. The Middle East Bank fired 115 people in a single shakeup.

In Kuwait, economists reckon the foreign population of one million has shrunk by well over 50,000 in the last two years.

Many complain of mistreatment.

An increasing number complain of being mistreated and say employers are confronting them with the choice of taking less money or going back home.

"Rather than returning to unemployment somewhere like Lahore (Pakistan), people are settling for 20 to 25 per cent less — whatever it takes to keep their jobs," said one economic source in Saudi Arabia.

Cleaners in a five-star hotel in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi recently received a management ultimatum to accept a one-third cut in pay if they wanted their contracts renewed.

In Bahrain, a company providing airport services told 100 expatriates to send their families home or quit.

The double trend of lower pay and fewer jobs worries many Asian countries.

Pakistan's remittances fall by 15%

Pakistan has 2.5 million workers spread through the Middle East and the money they send home has dropped 15 per cent in the past two years to about \$2.5 billion in 1984/85.

Official figures showed 100,000 Pakistanis recruited for foreign jobs last year compared with 128,000 in 1983.

Indian workforce shrinks

India's workforce in the Gulf fell from 250,000 in 1983-84 to 200,000 in 1984-85.

In the building boom of the 1970s, our largely illiterate, unskilled workers found a huge mar-

ket," explained a labour ministry official in Delhi.

"Now that the construction bonanza is over, skilled workers are needed for the service and maintenance sector," he added.

S. Korean business dwindles

South Korea, very competitive in winning building contracts because of its efficient low-cost labour, has seen its Middle East work force dwindle to 100,000 from a peak of 170,000. Seventeen of 54 Korean construction firms have gone home.

South Korea has relied heavily on Middle East contracts, earning \$69 billion in the last decade. This year they are worth about \$5 billion — half the 1983 figure.

Thai labour drops by 20%

The number of workers from Thailand sent to the Middle East dropped 20 per cent in the first half of 1985 and remittances fell by almost 30 per cent to some \$232 million.

Bangladesh benefits

But at least one Asian country seems to have benefited — Bangladesh. Its people work for such low wages that Gulf employers are switching to them as times get tougher.

Bangladesh officials expect the country in 1985-86 to earn \$600 million, \$150 million more than in 1984-85.

A job agency manager in Bangkok believes an end to the Gulf war and peace in Lebanon would bring new opportunities.

"This could create 100,000 new jobs for Thais in Lebanon, Iran and Iraq when reconstruction begins," he said.

But those who hope for an upturn in the Gulf economies could have a long wait.

## Japan outlines another belt-tightening budget

TOKYO (R) — Japan will maintain its tightfisted public spending policy next year, with government outlays little changed from last year, the finance ministry said Monday.

Its outline for the 1986/87 financial year budget starting on April 1 sets expenditure at \$4,008 billion yen (\$270 billion) a mere three per cent increase on this year's spending and only a 3.7 per cent rise on the previous year.

Announcement of the outline marks the first stage in the budget. After the cabinet has reviewed the proposals they will be submitted to parliament for debate. Politicians will then argue for their pet projects before ratifying the budget after a few days.

Finance ministry sources said only a handful of government agencies could expect to enjoy increased fund allocations.

The armed forces have been told to plan a 5.1 per cent rise at 3,297 billion yen (\$16.5 billion),

against the 3,356 billion yen (\$16.8 billion) they wanted. Aid spending is up 5.3 per cent at 612 billion yen (\$3 billion).

Japan has suffered tight budgets for the last four years as the government struggles to repay huge sums borrowed 10 years ago to spend their way out of oil-crisis recession.

Only defence, some social security programmes and overseas development aid escaped the finance ministry knife.

At the heart of its major ally, the United States, the government still decided to spend more on defence in the face of increased Soviet activity around Japan's coasts and on the fringes of its air space.

The spending total, envisaging no major new taxes, has been agreed by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Political sources said debate on the planned small rise in 1986/87 defence outlays would be a major feature because some politicians felt it was inadequate.

However, the burden of Japan's outstanding debt hangs heavy this year. It will cost the government 11,319 billion yen (\$56.6 billion) in repayments, interest charges and fees this year, about 20 per cent of the total budget.

The aim in each year of tight budgets has been to cut the dependency on borrowed funds, and this year the government plans to raise only 10,946 billion yen (\$54.7 billion) in bonds, a 6.3 per cent drop from last year.

Economists say an expected slowdown in world trade might cut company profits taxes, forcing Mr. Nakasone's government closer to grasping the unwelcome political nettle of increased taxes.

## U.S., OPEC dispute over funding IFAD may be close to resolution

KUWAIT (R) — A dispute between the United States and Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which threatens to jeopardise a vital aid lifeline to Third World farmers may be close to resolution.

Mr. Khaled Al Faisal, director general of the OPEC Fund for Arab Economic Development, told Reuters he was optimistic of an end this month to the row over contributions to the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

"The fund cannot wait anymore. It would have no resources from the start of January," said Mr. Al Faisal, who negotiated on behalf of OPEC in a two-and-a-half year wrangle over the issue.

IFAD, which finances mainly small agricultural projects in developing countries, is unique among development agencies. Its board comes equally from beneficiary nations and two donor groups, the 13-nation OPEC and the 24 industrialised states of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The donors contributed \$1 billion to each of two aid programmes running until the end of 1985.

But efforts to arrange a \$500 million replenishment for the next three years have foundered over U.S. objections to a decision by OPEC, whose members have been hit by falling oil income, to trim its share of donations to 40 per cent.

The OECD as a group agreed to foot the bill for the OPEC shortfall, but the U.S. has said its agreement to the new accord depends on each donor announcing its contribution.

Mr. Al Faisal said he expected IFAD's management to call a

meeting of members this month to formally agree a new three-year funding scheme, but no date has yet been set.

"The U.S. has apparently informed management it is coming in," Mr. Al Faisal said. But he added it might make its role conditional on congressional approval.

In addition, IFAD asked donors to contribute an extra \$300 million to a special aid programme for African countries south of the Sahara.

This target, Mr. Al Faisal said, has apparently been met without fuss. "It's voluntary. No-one worried about anyone else's commitments," he said.

However, indicating a steep cut in permanent aid by the donors to routine replenishments, he called the special fund a "one-shot" programme similar to a recent \$1 billion special fund-raising for Africa by the World Bank.

"I don't think any donor would publicly commit himself to this as permanent," he said.

U.S. has tardy record

Mr. Al Faisal said the U.S. had a tardy record as an IFAD donor and that in the preceding programmes it had failed to come up on time with hard cash. "They delayed their payments more than was allowed ... other members paid in cash on time."

He attacked the U.S. approach to other development funding, of which he said other industrialised nations had been critical.

Mr. Al Faisal defended the OPEC move to reduce its share of IFAD payments, saying it had never committed itself to a fixed quota.

IFAD's beneficiaries also included countries that were "richer and more able to contribute to the

resources than a lot of (OPEC) members," he remarked.

"Compare Gabon, for instance, with Brazil or Mexico, Argentina or Yugoslavia," he said. Development agency sources also noted that cash-strapped Nigeria contributes more than Britain.

Mr. Al Faisal declined to specify how much individual OPEC members were prepared to contribute to new replenishment aid for IFAD.

But he said all OPEC states except Libya and the Gulf Arab members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — had received aid from one or other agency.

IFAD sources said that until several weeks ago some Gulf Arab countries, and especially Qatar and the UAE, had been deferring agreement to the new programme.

Mr. Al Faisal said Iran and Iraq, at war for over five years, would formally be dropped as acknowledged donors in the new replenishment scheme. They retained nominal status in the past.

The director of research and information for the OPEC Fund for International Development, Mr. Abdul Kader Benamara, said last month in the official OPEC Bulletin: "It was inevitable the drastic fall in oil incomes in recent years would have an effect on the foreign aid programmes of OPEC member countries."

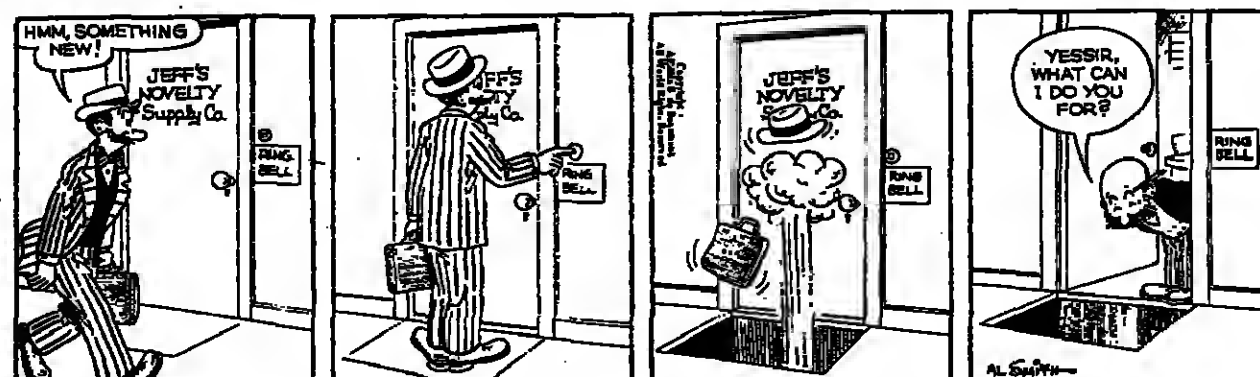
Nevertheless, net disbursements of official aid from OPEC states in 1983 and 1984 averaged 0.95 per cent of Gross National Product (GNP), against 0.36 per cent from OECD countries.

The total GNP of the OPEC group in 1984, however, came to only 27.3 per cent of the GNP of European Community countries and 16.8 per cent of U.S. GNP, he noted.

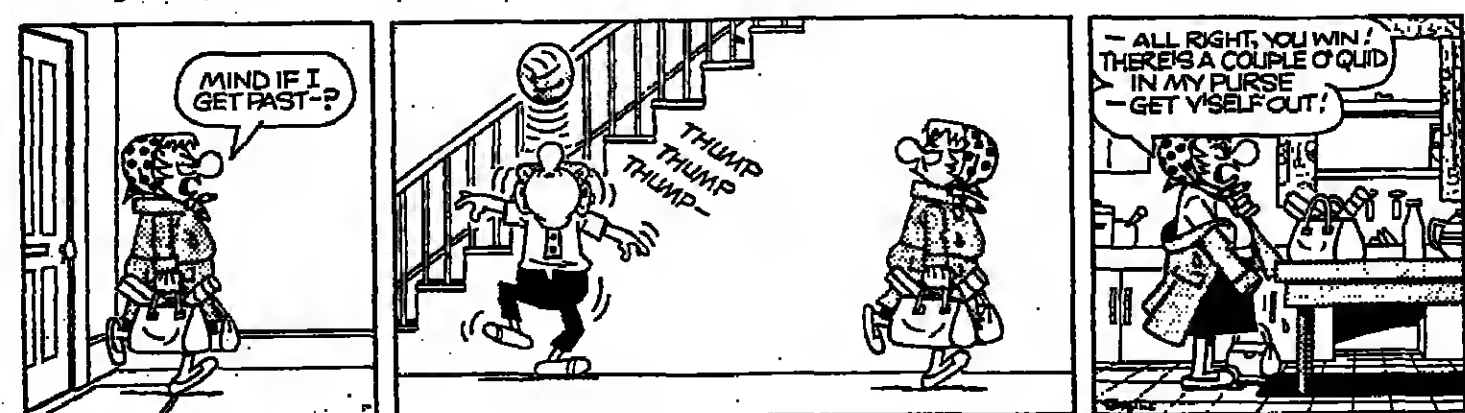
## Peanuts



## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KILSY

SAVIT

LACCIO

INLATE

A "STILL" IS AN APPARATUS THAT MAKES MANY PEOPLE THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JEWEL FRANG BOTHER FEUDAL

Answer: If you're not careful about lending an ear you might get this—IT CHEWED OFF



# TASS rejects U.S. charges of treaty violations as a 'fresh propaganda fraud'

**MOSCOW (Agencies) — Reports of new U.S. charges of Soviet arms control treaty violations have brought a swift denial from Moscow and TASS has described the allegations as "a fresh propaganda fraud."**

In a commentary Sunday night, the official News agency said the U.S. government was seeking to discredit the Soviet Union before the world and justify its own military preparations.

The New York Times said on Sunday that the Reagan administration had prepared a classified report for Congress alleging nine violations, some of them new.

The U.S. report, which Congress required when it approved fiscal 1986 defence spending, was scheduled to be sent to lawmakers on Monday. A copy of the unclassified document was obtained by the Associated Press on Saturday.

Mr. Reagan says in the reports that new Soviet missile deployments and other violations threaten existing arms control agreements and hamper chances for progress on new accords at the Geneva arms talks.

The report said the most serious new violation is the Kremlin's deployment of SS-25 missiles this

year, which the Reagan administration contends exceed the unratified 1979 SALT II treaty limit on new missiles.

TASS said the report, as described in the U.S. press, did not contain any new charges against Moscow. "It sets forth hackneyed inventions unsubstantiated by any concrete facts and which were already more than once exposed by the Soviet side."

The agency denied what it said were three allegations made in the report, concerning the SS-25 missile, SS-16 missiles and a radar station being built in Siberia.

TASS reiterated the Soviet argument that the SS-25 was no more than a modernised version of the SS-12 missile, saying the question had already been discussed with the United States.

On the SS-16, said by Washington to have been deployed at the Plesetsk test site, TASS denied that the Soviet Union had ever had such missiles, which are banned under the treaty.

It did not mention the new al-

legation that they had now been removed from the site and replaced by equipment associated with another strategic missile.

TASS linked the timing of the U.S. report with next week's expiry of the Soviet unilateral nuclear test ban, declared last July. The Kremlin has been waging a vociferous campaign urging the Reagan administration to join it in suspending tests before Jan. 1.

TASS also denied that construction of a new phased-array radar complex near Krasnoyarsk in Siberia violates the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty. Washington has contended the radar could be used in a nationwide anti-ballistic missile defence.

"The Krasnoyarsk radar station is designed solely for the tracking of space objects and outer space control," TASS said. "Consequently it has nothing to do with the ABM treaty."

The news agency said Mr. Reagan's claims are hypocritical because of U.S. work on the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), commonly known as "Star Wars," which envisions a space-based shield against nuclear missiles.

The Soviets repeatedly have said "Star Wars" violates the ABM treaty and is the biggest stumbling block to progress in the Geneva arms-control talks.

## U.S. delays 'Star Wars' nuclear test at Nevada

**LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AP) — A nuclear weapons test linked to President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" missile defence system was postponed for the third time on Sunday because of unfavourable weather, the Department of Energy said.**

The test would not be conducted until Saturday at the earliest because of continuing weather problems and the Christmas holidays, said spokesman Chris West.

A forecast indicated unfavourable weather would continue at the site 160 kilometres northwest of Las Vegas well into next week, West said. Another weather briefing has been set for Friday, meaning the test could not be conducted before Saturday, West said.

The test, code-named Goldstone, was scheduled for noon Sunday (1700 GMT) after being postponed on Thursday and again on Saturday.

Winds at Pabute Mesa, ground-zero for the test, continued to blow toward Beatty, Nevada, and populated areas of California, prompting the third delay, West said.

The tests are not conducted if winds are blowing towards populated areas in the event radioactive gases escape the ground. The underground hydrogen bomb blast will carry an explosive punch of up to 150,000 tons of TNT — 10 times the force of the atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima.

In Moscow, the Defence Ministry newspaper Red Star on Saturday criticised the planned test, saying it would undermine international stability. The Soviet Union says it is observing a unilateral five-month moratorium on nuclear testing.

U.S. officials have declined to confirm that the test is part of the "Star Wars" programme, a proposed space-based defence system designed to knock out enemy missiles with laser rays. But other sources say it is the fifth "Star Wars"-related nuclear shot at the Nevada test site since 1980.

The test is reportedly designed to help U.S. scientists learn how to harness and focus laser rays from a hydrogen bomb explosion. Thirty congressmen have urged a delay in the Goldstone shot, contending measuring equipment in a "Star Wars"-related test last March was flawed and the problems have not been corrected.

The current delays are strictly weather-related and have nothing to do with the congressional protest, West said.

Mr. Balasingham has returned to India after having been deported by the government in a crackdown on extremists. His organisation advocates armed revolt in Sri Lanka.

Several Tamil militant groups are based in the Tamil-dominated state. The Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Mr. Balasingham as saying Monday's blast blew a hole in his bedroom's roof.

He blamed agents of the Sri Lankan government and the Israeli secret service. Police were investigating the explosion, PTI said.

Mr. Balasingham was deported to Britain in August. He was allowed to return to India to take part in Indian-sponsored talks between the guerrillas and the Sri Lankan government. The talks, however, have thus far failed to resolve the communal conflict between the minority Tamils and majority Sinhalese.

At least six Tamil guerrilla groups are based in Madras.

## Naples oil depot flames subside; body of fourth victim is recovered

**NAPLES, Italy (Agencies) — Flames from blazing oil tanks at an Italian storage depot are beginning to subside, leaving at least four dead and 173 injured.**

Civil protection officials said the blaze, in 27 tanks at a depot of the state oil company Agip, had been brought under control after a second explosion on Sunday slightly injured five people, including three firemen.

The first blast before dawn on Saturday injured 168 people. Nineteen were detained in hospital but officials said none were in danger. Other were released after treatment for breathing in fumes and cuts from flying glass.

Nearly 2,000 local people spent their second night in temporary accommodation after evacuating homes close to the depot in a Naples suburb.

They were housed in hotel, caravans, tents and on two ships anchored in the bay of Naples, the officials said.

Investigators have ruled out sabotage as causing the explosion, which occurred as an Agip tanker ship was unloading 10,000 tonnes of petrol into storage.

A huge grey cloud of smoke still covered the city's industrial zone but pollution experts said it was not toxic and winds were carrying the cloud out to sea.

The body of the latest victim recovered Sunday night was identified as a 35-year-old night worker at the plant. He had been missing since the explosion, officials said.

The other victims included an 86-year-old woman and her dis-

abled daughter, who lived in one of two nearby houses which collapsed.

Meanwhile, crews aboard two boats worked to remove 56,000 litres of diesel fuel that leaked from the storage tanks, travelled down the shipping channel that links the facility with the Bay of Naples and was spreading across the bay, the Italian news agency ANSA reported. The boats were equipped with special equipment to draw off the oil, which was heading toward Capri, a lush island popular with tourists and about 32 kilometres from Naples.

The cleanup began a few hours after the explosion on Saturday and was ended Sunday when marine authorities declared that the pollution had been removed.

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The other victims included an 86-year-old woman and her dis-

## Civil Guard general shot dead in Spain

**PAMPLONA, Spain (R) — Suspected Basque guerrillas shot dead a retired Civil Guard general on Monday in the wake of widespread protests over the death of a Basque while under arrest by guardsmen, police sources said.**

They said a man and a woman shot Brigadier Juan Atares Pena through the head as he walked without bodyguards in the centre of this northern city, capital of Navarre province.

They said the attack bore the hallmarks of the separatist Basque organisation ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) which has killed 35 people this year.

Navarre was the home province of Mikel Zabala, a bus driver whose body was found floating down the Bidasoa river 19 days after he disappeared while in the

custody of the Civil Guard. His death has triggered a wave of demonstrations in northern Spain, and thousands of protesters marched through Pamplona on Sunday.

The march capped a week of demonstrations in several Spanish cities which included a one-day general strike in the Basque country.

The killing came eight days after the body of a Basque who disappeared while in Civil Guard custody was found floating on a river near here.

The dead man's family, denying he had any connections with the guerrillas, has accused Civil Guards of torturing him.

Post-mortems showed the body bore no signs of violence and confirmed he drowned.

## Marcos says he will be reelected and is considering stepping down in 1992

**NEW YORK (Agencies) — Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said in an interview published this week that he was confident of victory in February's election but that if he lost the country would endure a period of instability.**

Mr. Marcos, 68, told Newsweek magazine that the consequences of a defeat for him on Feb. 7 would last a decade.

There will be "a period of instability over the next 10 years if the opposition should win, arrest Marcos, put him on trial and go through with this vindictive process that has been announced," he said Mr. Marcos, who has been president for 20 years.

Corazon Aquino, the opposition candidate for president,

has vowed to put Mr. Marcos on trial if she is elected. Mrs. Aquino's husband, opposition leader Benigno Aquino, was shot to death in 1983 as he stepped off a plane returning him to Manila after a period of exile in the United States.

General Fabian Ver, chief of the Philippine armed forces, and 25 others were tried for murder and acquitted last month. The opposition says Mr. Marcos was behind Mr. Aquino's death.

Mr. Marcos said Corazon Aquino's candidacy shamed him. "It's demeaning, very degrading," he told Newsweek. "I have always refused to argue with a lady."

Mr. Marcos also said he would consider stepping down in 1992 if

he is reelected, and he speculated about successors but ruled out his wife, Imelda, as a possibility.

Mr. Marcos said he expected Gen. Ver to retire soon. "This can happen any time," he was quoted as saying.

As for his own retirement, Mr. Marcos said he would seriously consider stepping down in 1992 if reelected and "if there is no crisis which requires my presence. I think there will be none."

Mr. Marcos hesitated to discuss successors, but when pressed as to whether his running mate, Arturo Tolentino, would be a possibility, the president told Newsweek, "she is one man who can take over if anything happened to me."

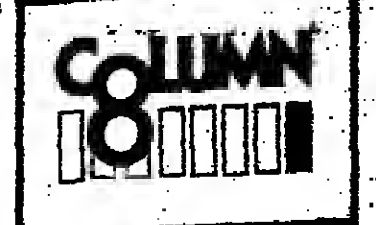
## British post shelled near Irish border

**BELFAST (AP) — Guerrillas fired mortar shells at a police checkpoint near the border with the Irish Republic on Sunday night in the latest of a string of attacks on police installations, authorities said.**

Belfast police said about seven mortars were fired at the permanently manned checkpoint near the border town of Strabane, 100 kilometres northwest of Belfast, but none of them exploded.

No-one was injured in the attack, and no group claimed responsibility, a police spokesman said.

The mortars were fired from a truck parked beside a nearby abandoned customs post on the Northern Ireland side of the border, said the spokesman. No arrests were made, he said.



## Dead bear believed to have overdosed on cocaine

**BLUE RIDGE, Georgia (AP) — Investigators searching for cocaine dropped by an airborne stinger have found a ripped-up shipment of the sweet-smelling powder and the remains of a bear that apparently died of a multimillion-dollar high.**

"The bear got to it before we could, and he tore the duffel bag open, got him some cocaine and O.D'd (overdosed)," said an investigator. Investigators said the black bear, weighing more than 68 kilograms, had been dead about four weeks.

Authorities found the bear's remains Friday in the mountains of North Georgia near the duffel bag and 40 packages of cocaine which had been ripped open and scattered over a hillside. Officials believe the dead bear, and maybe some other bears, ate several million dollars worth of the cocaine. Each of the 40 packages is believed to have contained one kilogramme of cocaine, or about 40 kilograms in all. The authorities were searching for cocaine believed dropped three months ago by Andrew Thornton, a 40-year-old former narcotics investigator who fell to his death Sept. 11 when his parachute failed to open.

Cyprus prison 'king' dies at 85

**NICOSIA (R) — Costas Pittas, known as the "king" of Cyprus prisons, died aged 85 in an old peoples' home at the weekend, after spending 50 years of his life in jail. Pittas was given the first of a string of sentences for theft when he was 13 and was last jailed, for attempted burglary, in 1976. A friend, Costas Zanettos, said: "Costas committed the offences deliberately to go to prison. He got attention there he couldn't find on the outside." Nicosisa prison guards sent a wreath to his funeral.**

Bus, taxi plunge through subway roof

**SEOUL (R) — A bus and a taxi plunged into a cavern which opened up in the road Monday when the roof of a subway construction site collapsed and police said three people were feared killed. Four other people were hurt when the two vehicles fell 15 metres after the steel-plated roof of the site gave way in the southeast port city of Pusan. Police said a building next to the construction site slid into the hole about an hour later.**

Malaysians protest at anti-dog darts

**KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Dogcatchers who shoot strays with blowpipes have stoked a row in Sarawak where residents complain their poisoned darts are dangerous. The weekly Borneo Bulletin said parents in Bintulu in the East Malaysian state feared children might be shot instead as hunters armed with the ancient tribal weapon chased dogs from trucks. Police agreed the method was dangerous but other officials disagreed and said the blowpipe was chosen because no licence was needed.**

Unlikely match produces 8 puppies

**COMPTON DUNDON, England (R) — Lucky, a 1.35-metre Great Dane bitch, has given birth to eight puppies and the talk of the village is that the father is a 25-centimetre tall Jack Russell terrier. Seven of the offspring are normal-sized Great Dane puppies. The eighth, which arrived 24 hours later, is much smaller and looks like a Jack Russell. Lucky's owner, farmer Derek Cross, says he recalls seeing his dog strolling down a hill at this village in western England with Mickey, a neighbour's Jack Russell, one autumn day when she was on heat. The pups were born three months later.**

Parisian wins \$2.2m in lottery

**PARIS (R) — France's national lottery brought a spectacular Christmas present for a Paris resident Sunday — a record jackpot of 17 million francs (\$2.2 million), officials said. The previous biggest win in the weekly state-run lottery was 10.7 million francs (\$1.4 million). The identity of the new millionaire was not disclosed.**

## Pakistani tribesmen possess 300,000 rifles, minister says

**ISLAMABAD (R) — Unruly Pashtun tribesmen along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan now have about 300,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles and many hundreds of rockets, anti-aircraft guns and time bombs, according to a government minister.**

Interior Minister Mohammad Aslam Khattak told the National Assembly Sunday night that Islamabad was worried by a flood of automatic weapons pouring into the tribal belt, which has traditionally been beyond central government control.

He said some of the arms were coming from Afghanistan but did not name the source for most of the Chinese-made Kalashnikovs now available in tribal area bazaars for as little as 16,000 rupees (\$1,000) apiece.

Afghan guerrillas say Pakistan secretly provides them with arms, some of which the rebels then sell off to the increasingly better-equipped Pakistani tribes. Islamabad denies this.

Thousands of troops entered the Khyber Pass early this month to arrest dissident tribesmen who had admitted to taking free assault rifles from Afghanistan to help block rebels from crossing the area on their way to fight the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

But officials here said the dissidents, who escaped before the troops destroyed their houses, had taken at most 1,000 Kalashnikovs

since Kabul started handing them out last summer.

Western diplomats say the sale of arms provided by the rebels' main backers — the U.S., Pakistan, China and some Arab countries — had reached alarming proportions.

Black market prices for Kalashnikovs, a status symbol among Pashtun tribes, have been falling steadily as the rifles become more available in frontier bazaars. They have also become common in parts of Punjab and the southern province of Sindh.

Mr. Khattak said several Afghans had been arrested and charged with planting bombs recently in Peshawar, capital of the Northwest Frontier Province and centre for Afghan rebel parties.

He denied any Soviet part in the blasts but said Kabul's secret police had "infiltrated" some refugee camps in Pakistan and could have caused the explosions.

Wali Khan Kikikhel, the leading dissident tribesman, had vowed to get heavy weapons from Afghanistan to fight Pakistani troops now occupying his home area. He has been holding rallies of his followers in remote parts of the Khyber Agency.

Officials say dissident tribesmen north of Khyber were due on Sunday to surrender over 100 Kalashnikovs received from Afghanistan. There has been no confirmation they have done so.

## Sri Lankan rebel leader escapes blast in Madras

**MADRAS, India (Agencies) — A bomb exploded on Monday in the home of a Tamil militant leader and the top Marxist theoretician of a guerrilla group fighting for an independent Tamil nation in Sri Lanka, police reported.**

The explosion ripped through a wall in the home of A.S. Balasingham, key political organiser of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, said K. Mohan Das, police director general in southern Tamil Nadu state.

Although Mr. Balasingham was home at the time, no one was injured.

The cause of the 5:15 a.m. blast has not yet been determined, police said.

Mr. Balasingham has returned to India after having been deported by the government in a crackdown on extremists. His organisation advocates armed revolt in Sri Lanka.

Several Tamil militant groups are based in the Tamil-dominated state.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Mr. Balasingham as saying Monday's blast blew a hole in his bedroom's roof.

He blamed agents of the Sri Lankan government and the Israeli secret service. Police were investigating the explosion, PTI said.

Mr. Balasingham was deported to Britain in August. He was allowed to return to India to take part in Indian-sponsored talks between the guerrillas and the Sri Lankan government. The talks, however, have thus far failed to resolve the communal conflict between the minority Tamils and majority Sinhalese.

At least six Tamil guerrilla groups are based in Madras.

## Chinese students from ethnic regions stage protest against nuclear testing

**PEKING (AP) — One student said on Monday that ethnic students from China's Xinjiang Uighur region were arrested after staging a weekend protest in Peking against nuclear weapons tests, but others said authorities only warned the activists.**

Students interviewed near the Central College of Nationalities confirmed that the protesters from northwest China marched from Tiananmen Square to the Zhongnanhai government headquarters on Sunday.

Student sources said earlier that 200 to 300 students were involved in the demonstration against nuclear testing in Xinjiang, site of the Lop Nor testing ground in the desert where China exploded its first atomic bomb in 1964.

Xinjiang is heavily populated by Uighur Muslims, Kazakhs, Huis and other minority groups.

The students interviewed on Monday, who spoke on condition of anonymity, gave conflicting reports of what occurred after the march.

One student said some activists were arrested, but he did not know

how many. Others said the protesters were allowed into Zhongnanhai, where officials talked to them, and then returned to campus.

"The students were not arrested," another student said. "They are from a far-away area and they did not understand that demonstrations are not allowed. The police stopped them in the street and would not let them continue."

The demonstration was the latest in a series of student protests since September, but was the first one specifically involving minority students and the nuclear testing issue.

Previous protests were against the Japanese trade surplus with China, student living conditions and corruption in government.

In apparent response to the earlier protests, top-ranking communist party and government leaders lectured students on channeling their patriotism into modernising China and told them unauthorised protests would only bring chaos.

Officials at the gate to the Cen-

tral College of Nationalities, which trains future officials for minority regions, checked the identification of those entering and leaving the college, and would not allow an Associated Press reporter and photographer to enter.

They said foreigners must make an appointment to get on campus. The identification checks started Dec. 1.

Asked by telephone about the demonstration, a man in the college president's office, who would identify himself only as Mr. Zheng, said: "Sorry, we know nothing about it. Yesterday was Sunday and the students had the day off, so we didn't know what happened."

He said the campus was quiet on Monday.

On Sunday night, an official at the Peking municipal government, Wen Shaoqi, confirmed there had been a demonstration involving Xinjiang students.

One Peking student said those enrolled at his college were recently ordered to report all contact with foreigners to campus authorities.

## Mali signals easing tension on border with Burkina Faso

**BAMAKO (R) — Mali says troops from neighbouring Burkina Faso have withdrawn from a disputed border area following the latest flare-up of tension between the two West African states.**

Official Bamako Radio quoted a senior official of Mali's sole ruling party, the Democratic Union of Malian people (UDPM), as telling a meeting of party activists Sunday night that all Burkina Faso soldiers had left Malian territory.

Mali charged on Saturday that Burkina Faso troops had occupied a string of villages on its side of the disputed area, where they had hoisted their national flag and kidnapped local officials.

Burkina Faso, formerly known as Upper Volta, responded by saying it would defend itself if necessary. Both sides on Sunday also issued conciliatory statements in a bid to prevent the dispute flaring into war.

Eleven years ago troops from the two former French colonies, who share a 1,000 kilometre border, fought a brief war for possession of the area.

The Mali official, Djibril Diallo, said Mali's armed forces had

"done their duty." He added that Burkina Faso remained "friends and brothers" of Malians.

The 160-kilometre strip of land has been disputed for 25 years and the latest flare-up apparently followed an attempt by the Burkina Faso authorities to conduct a census in four villages which Bamako says are in Mali.

According to Mali, Burkina Faso civilians posing as census agents crossed the border on Dec. 14 and were followed by army troops and armed members of Burkina Faso's grassroots Committees for the Defence of the Revolution (CDR).

Another UDPM official, Ferdinand Nagozie Berthe, said on Sunday that Mali had given Burkina Faso until midnight last Saturday to withdraw its forces from the border strip.

He told one of a series of UDPM-organised meetings in Bamako that Mali would safeguard its territorial integrity if the deadline was not met.

Eyewitnesses reported troops leaving the Malian capital, apparently heading for the Burkina Faso border.